

WE NEVER WENT TO THE MOON



By Bill Kaysing

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By

Bill Kaysing & Randy Reid

Health Research
P.O. Box 850
Pomeroy, WA 99347

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Other writings by Bill Kaysing:

- ★ The Complete Illustrated First Time Farmer's Guide
- ★ How To Live In The New America
- ★ Great Hot Springs Of The West
- ★ The Robin Hood Handbook
- ★ Intelligent Motorcycling
- ★ How You Can Stop Smoking And Enjoy It

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FOREWORD

It has been estimated that about 30 per cent of the adult population of the United States does not believe that this country has landed astronauts on the moon. That's quite a percentage of boosters for this book before it is even published. Perhaps after it has been circulated there will be even more. And eventually, if Bill's theory is correct, 100 per cent of the entire world will know about one of the biggest hoaxes in the world's history.

While the moon swindle is gigantic, it actually takes a lesser place to such monstrous hoaxes as...

The Great 200 Billion Dollar Food Swindle!

The Giant 300 Billion Dollar Tax Swindle!

plus swindles perpetrated by the U.S. Government in the areas of defense spending, drugs, medicine, price rigging, social security and on and on, ad infinitum.

So read on... enjoy and be illuminated. As Cervantes said:
"Patience, and shuffle the cards."

Our Cast of Characters...

AEC	Atomic Energy Commission
AF	Air Force
ASP	Apollo Simulation Project
CFR	Council on Foreign Relations
CIA	Central Intelligence Agency
DIA	Defense Intelligence Agency
LEM	Lunar Excursion Module
NAA	North American Aviation Corp.
NASA	North American Space Administration
NSA	National Security Act
NSC	National Security Council
OSS	Office of Strategic Services

INTRODUCTION

"Apparently a substantial number of Americans do not believe that their government landed men on the moon", says David Wise in "The Politics Of Lying", 1973. On June 14, 1970, the Knight newspapers published an astonishing story based on interviews with 1,721 persons in six cities. The people interviewed were asked whether they really believed that U.S. astronauts had been to the moon and back.

The article emphasized that no attempt had been made to reach a cross section of the population. Nevertheless, the interviews did indicate that a substantial number of Americans do not believe the single most publicized action ever taken by their government in peacetime.

When the skeptics were asked why such an enormous hoax would be perpetrated, they generally replied either that the government had done it to fool the Russians and Chinese, or that it had been done to justify the great cost of the space program. A few thought the government had a bread-and-circuses motive to make the people forget their troubles.

Government deception, supported by a pervasive system of official secrecy and an enormous public relations machine, has reaped a harvest of massive public distrust.

Is the photo at right really
the surface of the moon or
is it an elaborate model?

Would you bet your life on
your answer?

PS: NASA says it's the moon.



HOW THE BOOK CAME TO BE WRITTEN

During the summer of 1969, I was living in a small house on the beach in Santa Barbara, California. A fanfare of newspaper stories heralded the launch of the astronauts to the moon. Soon, I knew, TV screens would flicker with barely discernible pictures of moon walkers.

But despite a seven year stint at Rocketdyne, the firm that built the main propulsion units for Apollo, I could not work up the least bit of interest in the entire astrophysical circus ... not even to the extent of reading an article or watching the most exciting moments on the boob tube. Why, I wondered.

Why, of all people, shouldn't I be captivated with the prospect of seeing the fruition of my work and the labors of thousands of others who had contributed to the Apollo voyage programs. Why indeed?

I decided I did not believe that Armstrong, Collins and Aldrin or anyone else was going to the moon. And consequently, I could not generate the least enthusiasm for watching a phony performance.

From whence did this odd idea come, I wondered. I had not really given the Apollo program much thought in the years since leaving Rocketdyne. I had followed it in a cursory fashion, becoming aware of it only through the more startling developments: the fire on Pad 34, for example.

So it is possible that I had simply lost interest in astronautics despite the prospect of a moon landing. But I didn't think so; there was more to it than mere diminishment of interest. Somehow I seemed to have perceived that the Apollo project had become a gigantic hoax and that nobody was leaving earth for the moon, certainly not in July of 1969.

Call it a hunch, an intuition; information from some little understood and mysterious channel of communication ... a metaphysical message. While tenuous and ephemeral at its source, it was strong and vivid in its form. In short, a true conviction.

I watched none of the moon "landings" nor did I pay much attention to print media presentations.

Since summer of 1969, the feeling and belief that a man's journey to the moon is still in his future became stronger. I paid even less attention to the follow-on "flights" of Apollo and noticed that many others were equally neglectful.

As the years passed, I found myself comparing the Apollo flights to many other incidents in American life. Watergate was an outstanding example and a striking point of comparison. Here was a case of leaders presenting one face to the public while another was completely hidden; a Machiavellian duplicity that has shocked many people and shattered their complacency.

The energy 'crisis' was another Apollo simulation. Here, an entire industry created an artificial shortage to ram the price increases down the throats of resisting but still gullible consumers.

But, as Lincoln so wisely said, you cannot fool all the people all the time. Thus, in many places, the facade of the corporate state began to crack. However, instead of apologies and excuses, a vicious arrogance appeared (the attitudes of Haldeman and Ehrlichman reflect this). Even in public relations-type advertising, an attitude of "take it or leave it" emerged from the formerly velvet-glove-over-the-mailed-fist corporations.

Now was the time to ask some questions of NASA regarding their Apollo program ... questions that I found continually badgering my mind. Questions like, why didn't the astronauts make some visible signal from the moon? It would have been relatively easy to touch off some hypergolic chemicals, beam a laser to a mirror on earth, create a pattern with lightweight black dust or provide some other means of definitely proving that they were really there. Relying on an easily simulated picture on TV was the least believable means of "proof".

Why did the Dutch papers, circa 1969, question the authenticity of the moon landing? And more importantly, why did the American press ignore the otherwise interesting sidelight?

Why is it that NASA's Apollo records are not classified, but are also not available to the general public? In a letter to me from the present head of technical publications of Rocketdyne, there is this comment: "Apollo material not classified but unavailable to the public. . ."

Why did so many astronauts end up as executives of large corporations? Was this their real reward for the moon "trip"?

Why did some astronauts die in accidents, others suffer brain damage and still others have nervous breakdowns? Was this rate of attrition higher than should be expected for this type of carefully selected and trained individual? Did it relate to the high incidence of departure of witnesses to the Kennedy murder?

What has happened to the Baron Report? -- a 500 page compilation of errors. Instances of mismanage-

Why did the relatives of astronauts so often refer to the unreality of events? Was it because the events really were unreal?

Why was the fact that the astronauts were training in the Las Vegas area not publicized? Every other aspect of their lives was examined in close detail. Was it because a part of the Nevada desert (specifically, the Mercury test site for AEC use) was being groomed as a moon "set"?

Why were the first astronauts held in quarantine so long after their "trip" when most scientists agree that the moon is sterile and there was virtually no chance of disease transmission? Was it because the astronauts needed a period of reconditioning after the spurious trip? Was it because they simply could not bear to face hordes of cheering people so soon after playing roles in a show on earth?

Why was Apollo 6, a total fiasco, followed by six perfect moon missions which in turn were followed by the manned orbiting lab debacle? Doesn't this cause a credibility gap among both statisticians and laymen?

Why was there a rigid and unbending requirement that all data for public release be cleared through the public relations office of NASA?

Why were all transmissions to be public via TV and radio, media of communication easily faked? Why was there *nothing* to see other than the launch and some fuzzy pictures allegedly coming from the moon?

Is there any real assurance that the astronauts were actually aboard the Apollo vehicle? Also, is there any proof that it really flew with a full load of fuel? Or did it make it off the pad because it was lightly and safely loaded with engines running at reduced power?

Eight astronauts died in non-space accidents: were they all accidents?

Why did Wernher Von Braun leave NASA to become a Fairchild executive? His whole life until then was devoted to space travel; in fact, he was obsessed. Did he finally realize the folly of trying to reach the moon with equipment built by the lowest bidder and the firms with the most skilled lobbyists?

What did Pat Collins mean by her remark on July 20th, 1969, 4:05 p.m. Houston time, when she declared, "It's about as real as anything about this whole thing is...", when she was asked if a simulation docking (as seen on TV) was *real*.

Why were the moon rocks rushed to Switzerland right after they landed? What proof do we have that they are actually rocks from the moon?

Why did the landing of all Apollo return capsules take place out of sight of the public -- and even of the pickup carrier crews?

Why was there never a mention of gold, silver, diamonds or other precious metals on the moon? Wasn't this a viable consideration? Why was this fact never discussed in the press or by the astronauts?

Why was the fact that the moon mission was really a military project concealed from the public? Many military fiascos are hidden from the public to avoid loss of prestige.

Many other questions similar to the above have never been satisfactorily answered by either NASA, the press or the scientists involved.

We invite an answer to these questions now. In fact, the entire book is an invitation to NASA or other groups or concerned individuals to review the concept presented and refute it with some indisputable evidence that we have, indeed, landed on the moon -- that we have, indeed, made good use of the 30 billion dollars that allegedly went to fund Apollo.

Photos, ticker tape parades, a bag of rocks and other superficial items do not provide adequate answers to the questions posed above, or to those presented in the following chapters.

"Maybe Bill Kaysing is crazy. But his version of the moon program ought to be read and studied carefully. Because it it's true, it explains a lot of hitherto unexplainable mysteries and coverups. If Kaysing is right, we've all been fucked again!"

-- Paul Jacobs (America's leading investigative journalist. He has exposed government deception for two decades.)

CHAPTER 1

"Nothing appeared to be going right. Rockets blew up in tests, there were troubles with the Apollo I spacecraft. Schedules slipped badly. Some people feel that the project (Apollo) is falling apart at the seams."

Howard Benedict, Associated Press

ELEMENTS OF ROCKET PROPULSION

The Chinese discovered rockets around 700 A.D. They used them for weapons and for celebrations. Early rockets such as the Chinese used, and later those used by the English for warfare, were solid propellant types. Not until the 20th Century was the possibility of using more efficient but more complex liquid propellant systems.

Robert Goddard, a lone-wolf American experimenter, pursued the science of liquid propelled rockets in the 1920's and early 1930's. He achieved most of the initial successes in this field. His efforts did not escape the attention of the war-oriented Germans. All through the 30's, Von Braun and other German scientists diligently studied and experimented with liquid propelled rockets. Their efforts resulted in the deadly but inconclusive V-2. Thousands of these highly sophisticated (at that time) rockets were launched, and landed with often devastating results in England.

The Germans with their pre-eminence in rockets notwithstanding, were defeated by the Russians and Americans, who obtained as much material and as many men as they could carry away from German test and development sites.

This formed the nucleus of all subsequent rocket development activity in both countries. The major emphasis was on liquid propellants, despite its temperamental nature. One of the most severe problems, particularly for U.S. rockets, was combustion instability.

This phenomenon is a result of combustion at high flow rates. When hundreds of pounds of propellant are burned in a short time, strange effects take place. Acoustic transients present in this type of "continuous explosion" can trigger resonant conditions.

In other words, the high noise levels (as much as 150 db) cause anomalies in propellant burning. Standing waves possessing high kinetic content flash back and forth within the chamber. In microseconds, these waves can concentrate high temperatures at certain points within the rocket chamber, burning the thin walls through and causing total engine failure.

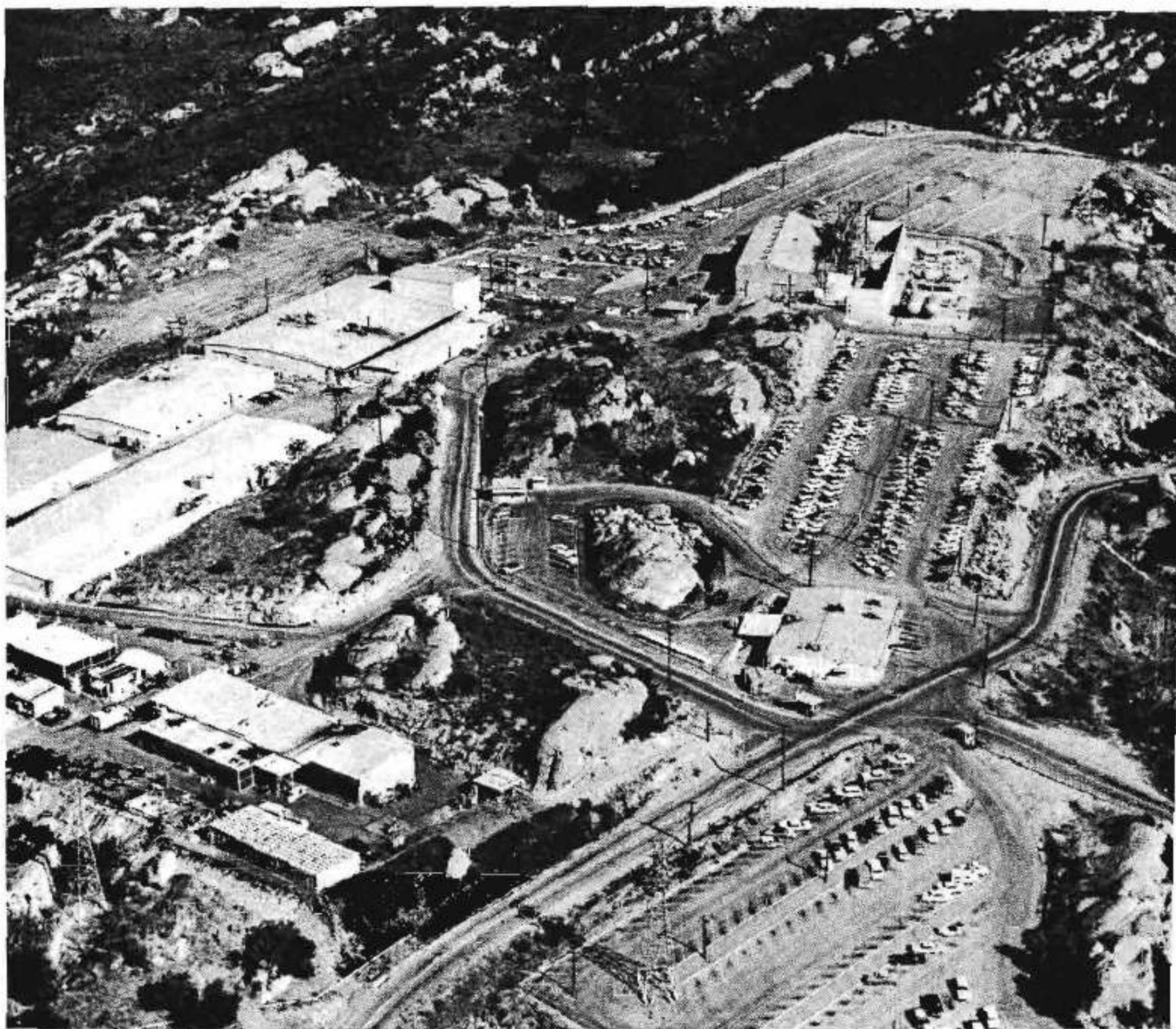
As a witness to many rocket engine tests at the Santa Susana lab, I saw many failures, blowups and premature engine cutoffs due to incipient disaster. Even after the relatively modest Atlas engine cluster was accepted by the Air Force for use in the Atlas ICBM, failures occurred with repeated regularity.

For example, on April 20, 1964, the DOD announced that the Air Force had 13 consecutive failures with Atlas D, E and F rockets in the summer and fall of 1963. This was at a time when the F-1, a much larger engine, was under intensive development. My point is this: if the Atlas couldn't achieve reliability after almost a decade of development, how could a far larger and more powerful rocket engine be successful? Further, the Atlas was a military missile engine, while the F-1 was intended to transport human beings.

As late as the spring of 1963, special contracts were awarded to Rocketdyne to try to determine the cause of failures, most of them believed to be based on combustion instability. Subsequently, little information ever reached the public concerning this problem. Was the problem solved? Was it partially solved? Answers to these questions will not be forthcoming until NASA makes these data available to the public.

"I doubt if I could have flown my (Mercury and Gemini) missions if they had encountered as many foul-ups as the Apollo craft."

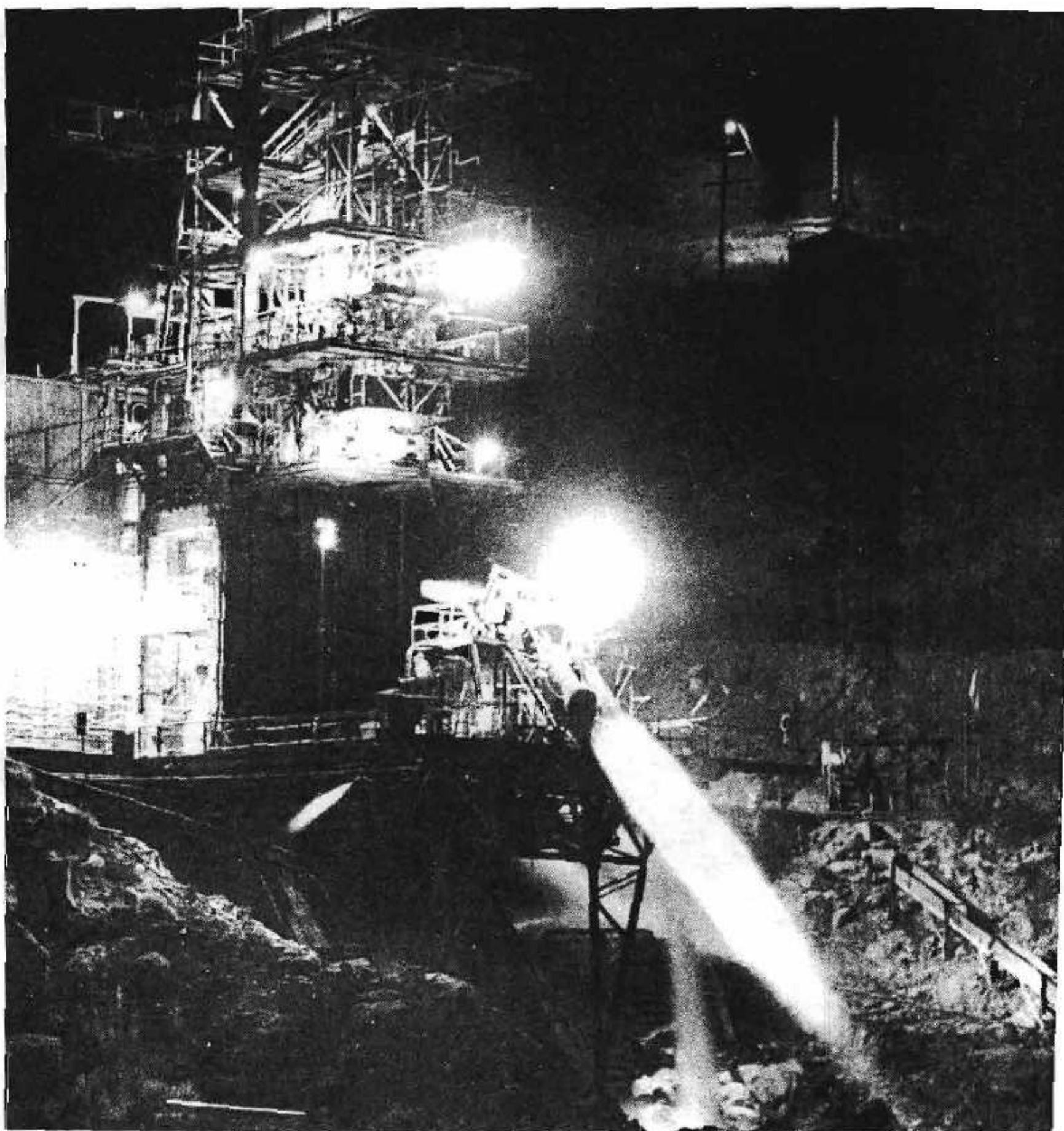
- Walter Shirra, February, 1966



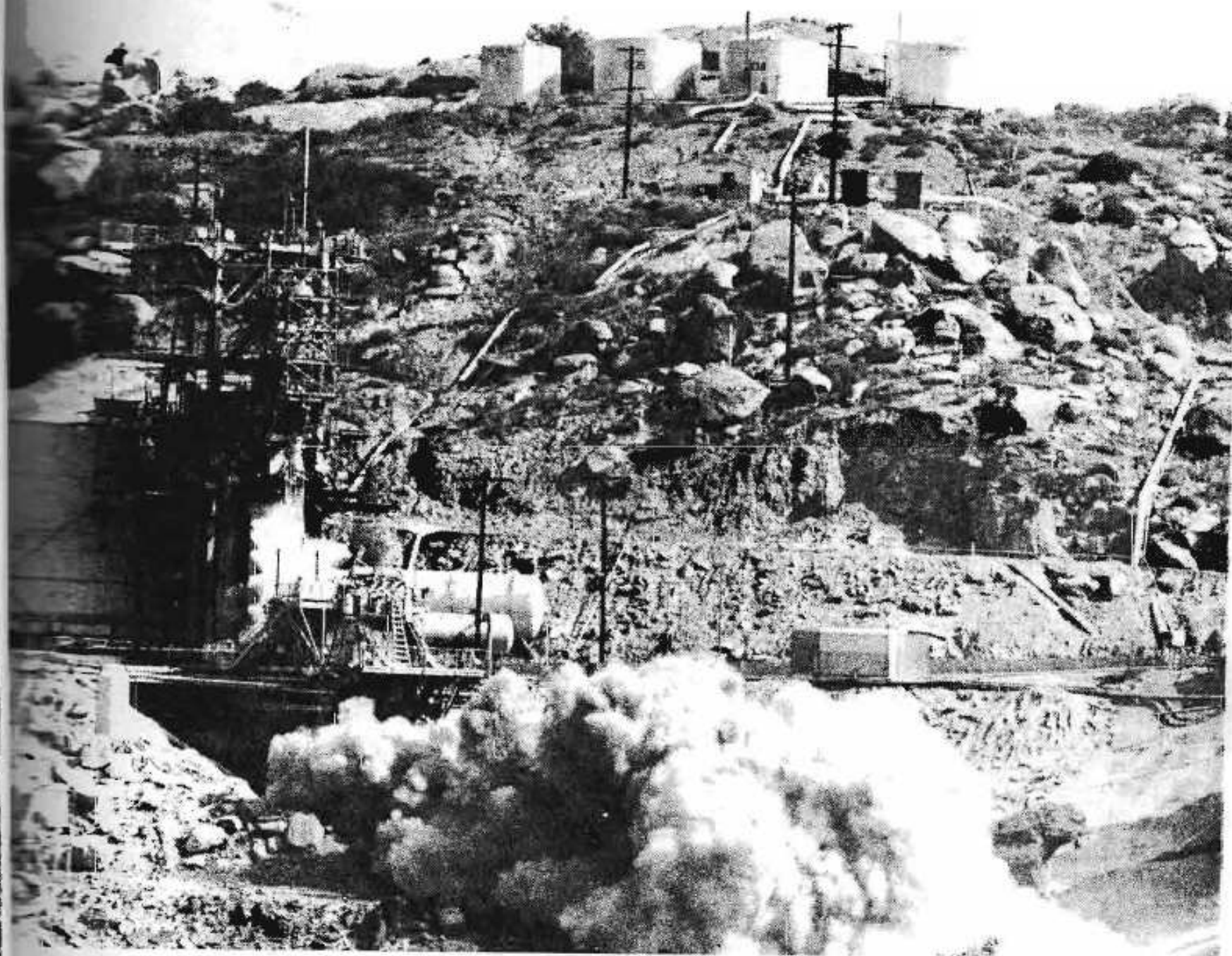
Few people, other than employees, have ever visited the Propulsion Field Laboratory hidden in the Simi Hills above the San Fernando Valley.



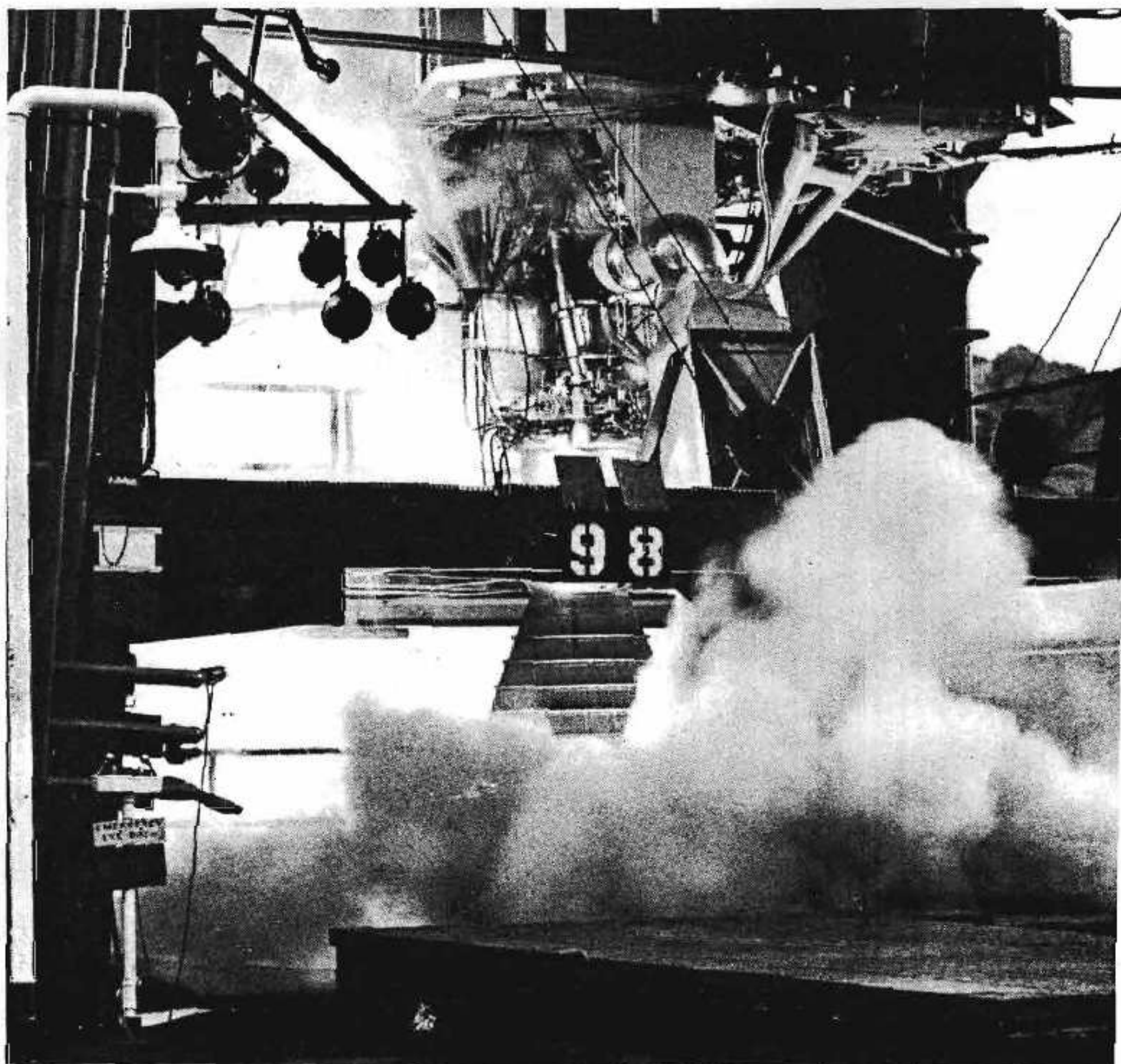
In this view of a set of three rocket engine test stands, we see the San Fernando Valley just beyond the hill crests. The majority of the population were unaware of exactly what was taking place at the Field Laboratory.



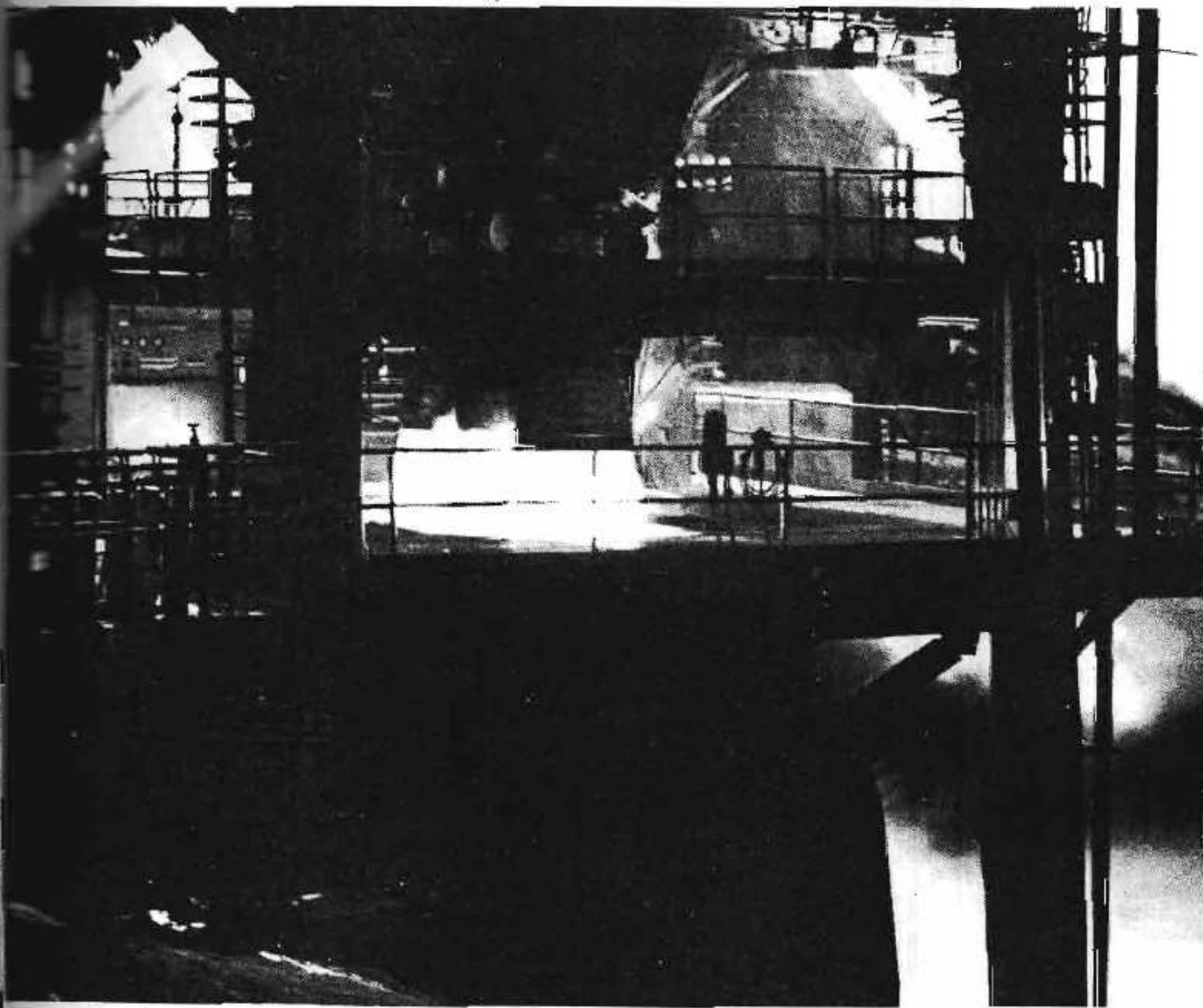
This test stand, VTS 2 at the Rocketdyne Propulsion Field Laboratory, was destroyed by a tremendous explosion in the 1950s. None of this information ever reached the American public. Disasters have always been squelched by NASA when possible.



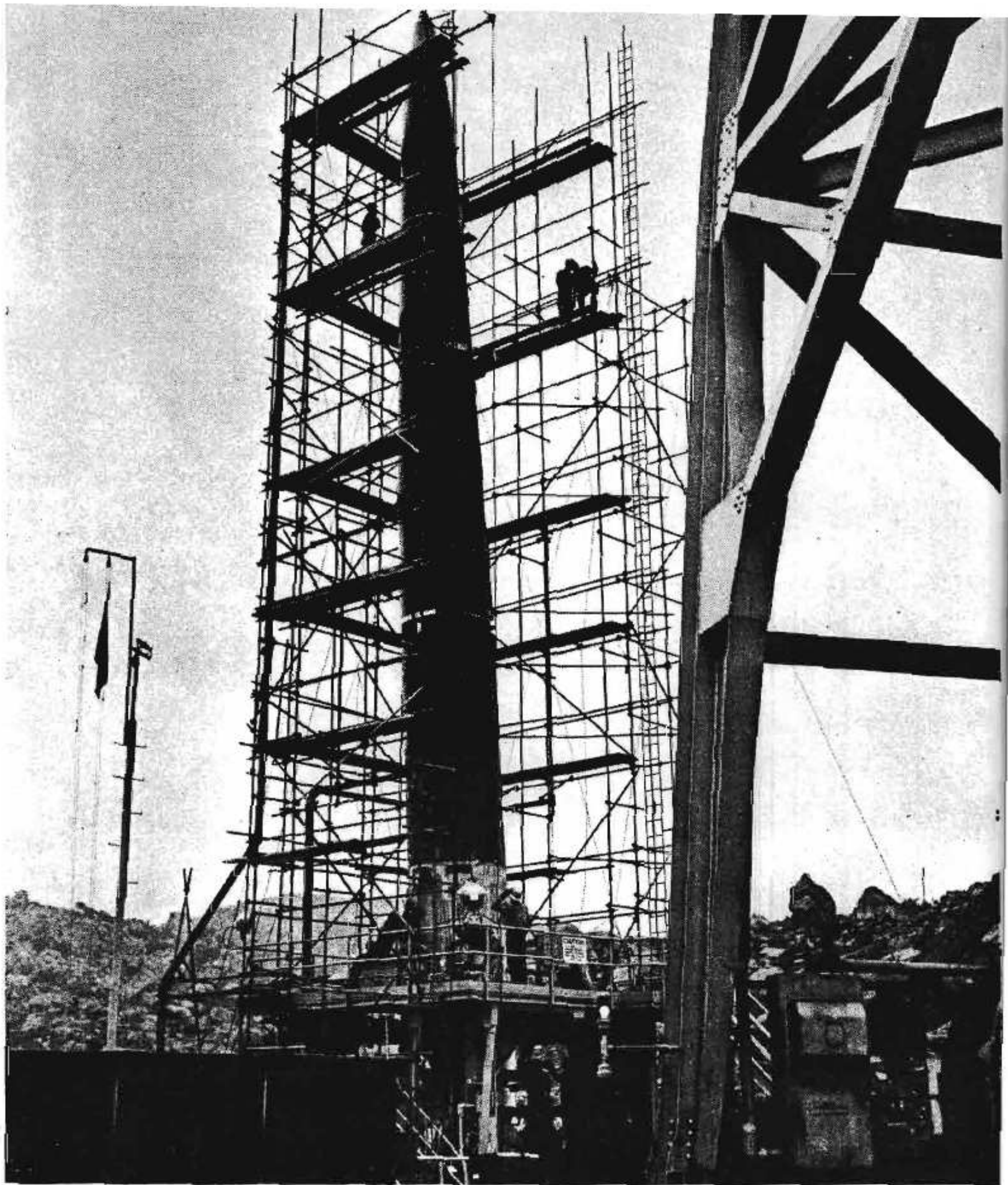
A test of hypergolic propellants: nitrogen tetroxide and hydrazine (UDMH) at the Field Lab. Such tests were dangerous in the extreme due to the toxicity of the propellants in their burned or unburned state. The residents of the nearby San Fernando Valley were not told of the nature or danger of this type of testing -- another example of the cavalier attitude of large corporations.



A formerly secret picture of an Atlas rocket engine on a static test stand.



The famous Atlas engine operating at full power during a static (held down) test at the Rocketdyne Field Laboratory. Again, it is important to note that all personnel are safe within sturdy blockhouses or behind barriers far distant when this engine is functioning. There are good reasons for this safety procedure, all based on experience. Note especially the rocket blast at lower right. It has such tremendous power, it could blow a Cadillac into the next county!



This intercontinental ballistic missile was the Navaho, unknown to most Americans but developed during the mid-fifties by Rocketdyne and other DOD contractors. Based on a German concept, it was cancelled in favor of the faster Atlas in 1957.

"Most of our elected leaders felt that they had the right to manipulate the American public."

-- L. H. Gelb

Just as technical knowledge is necessary to fully comprehend the method by which the Apollo project was simulated, it is imperative that the reader have basic understanding of U.S. proficiency in lies, swindles, and hoaxes as practiced in their secret operations.

Thus, examples of each are presented in the following chapter

CHAPTER 2

U.S. GOVERNMENT EXPERIENCE IN SECRET OPERATIONS

To successfully execute such a large simulation project as Apollo, it was necessary to draw upon many decades of secret operations experience. In this field the U.S. was and still is pre-eminent.

Probably the most famous and certainly the first major post-WWII secret operation to be exposed was the revelation that the U.S. government was active in high altitude spying. Until this story broke during the reign of the Golf King, Ike Eisenhower, most Americans believed that the U.S. was almost lily white in espionage.

While we all recognized that spying went on, it was thought to be parallel in nature to the immaculate conception: fun, but not too much fun, and certainly done with a high level of sanitation.

Thus, the shock effect was great, and greater still, because of the personality of the leader who had to swallow his own lies. All of us recall the great war hero and patriarch, Eisenhower. For him to tell a fib was as startling as learning that the Pope had something going with a Vatican file clerk.

The facts are these . . .

A U-2, high altitude photographic reconnaissance plane with CIA pilot Gary Powers at the controls, was shot down by a Russian SAM missile on May 1, 1960. The position was about 1200 miles inside the Russian border. Eisenhower had personally approved of the development of the plane and flights had been taking place for about four years.

On May 5, Khrushchev announced that an American plane had been shot down inside Soviet territory. Washington countered with announcements of their own:

Lie number 1: A NASA weather plane, on a flight inside Turkey, had been missing since May 1 after the pilot reported oxygen trouble; perhaps it had drifted a bit . . .

Lie number 2: The pilot was identified as F.G. Powers, a civilian employed by Lockheed Aircraft.

Lie number 3: State Department spokesman Lincoln White declared: "Now, our assumption is the man blacked out. There was absolutely NO deliberate attempt to violate Soviet air space. There never has been."

The State Department admitted that the flight was for spy purposes but . . . Lie number 4: It had not been authorized by Washington. This was another big whopper, since Eisenhower had not only initiated the entire program, he approved the flight schedules!

Finally, on May 9, Eisenhower, through the State Department, reversed himself, admitted the spy flights, and took responsibility. Later, after he left office, he said: "The lie we told about the U-2 was my greatest regret. I didn't realize how high a price we were going to have to pay for that lie. And if I had to do it over again, we would have kept our mouths shut."

This is a key statement; not that the lie was dishonest, just that they would have said nothing. That would make it all right?

But on to other secrets shielded by lies that occurred during the Eisenhower administration . . .

Guatemala: In 1954, the CIA financed and organized a coup against the leftist regime of President Guzman. As a force of CIA P47s bombed Guatemala City, Henry Cabot Lodge, Eisenhower's ambassador to the UN, denied any U.S. involvement. Secretary of State Dulles also announced that the situation is "being cured by the Guatemalans themselves." Since the entire operation was being conducted under the supervision of tough, merciless Frank G. Wisner (the CIA's director of secret operations) neither Lodge nor Dulles nor, for that matter, anyone in the U.S. Government who knew the facts, was being truthful.

Indonesia: The CIA recruited pilots to fly bombers from Manila to a rebel airstrip in the Celebes and to fly the planes in combat against Sukarno's forces. In March, 1958, Dulles testified before Congress that "we are not intervening in the affairs of this country." Eisenhower told a press conference subsequently that "our policy is one of careful neutrality and proper deportment all the way through so as not to be taking sides where it is none of our business."

The following month, the Indonesians shot down and captured one of the CIA pilots, Allen Lawrence Pope.

Bay of Pigs, Cuba: The most familiar of all CIA flascos, this abortive attempt to de-Castro Cuba cost the lives of quite a few participants and severely embarrassed a new president. Planned, funded and executed by the CIA, it did nothing so well as expose the clandestine organization for the inept group that it was at that time. Did things improve? To some extent, maybe. They fooled most of the people when they really embarrassed Kennedy on November 22, 1963.

German radio tapped **'The Ultra Secret'**

Special to The Washington Post

LONDON — A book published here last week reveals for the first time the most important untold story of World War II and one of the greatest achievements of military intelligence in history.

It is the fact that allied com-

manders received the deciphered and translated radio communications of the Germans, from the orders of Hitler and his top generals down to minor field commanders of the Wehrmacht, Luftwaffe and Navy, within hours or sometimes minutes of their dispatch, and in enormous volume.

The book, "The Ultra Secret," by retired Group Capt. F.W. Winterbotham, one of the top British operating executives of the code-breaking operation, was authorized for publication by British authorities.

Not least of the miracles of the cracking of the German "Enigma" machine cipher and the dissemination of its several hundred daily messages is the

fact that the accomplishment has remained secret for 35 years.

Several thousand Allied commanders and intelligence officers were aware of, and beneficiaries of the deciphering operations; several score Americans participated in the code-breaking, analysis and instant dissemination from a huge headquarters in Bletchley, a dreary railroad town 50 miles northwest of London. All were sworn to secrecy, and kept their oath.

Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower

*"The feat was accomplished by
'Enigma' machine
mechanic who had*

and other allied commanders called the intelligence so received of "priceless value." Doubtless it saved hundreds of thousands of lives and shortened the war by years.

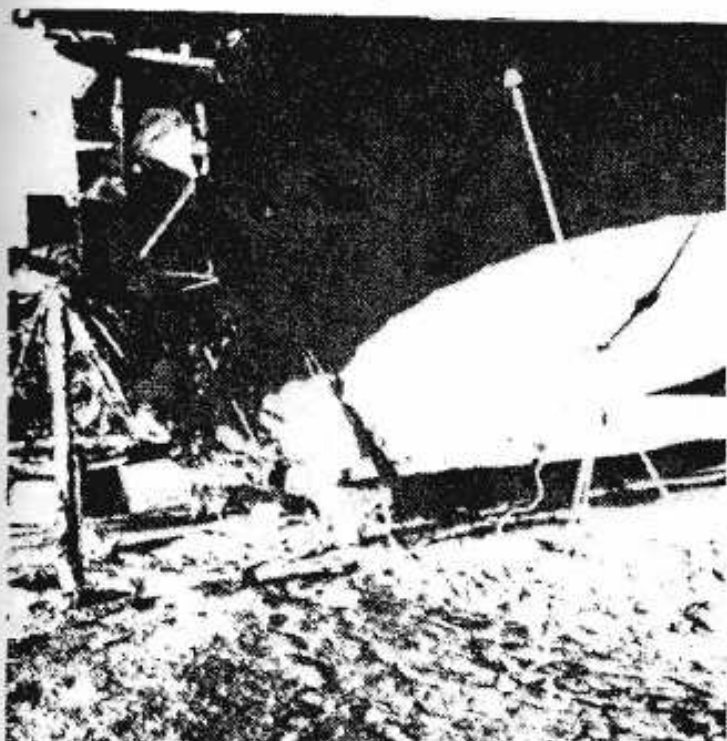
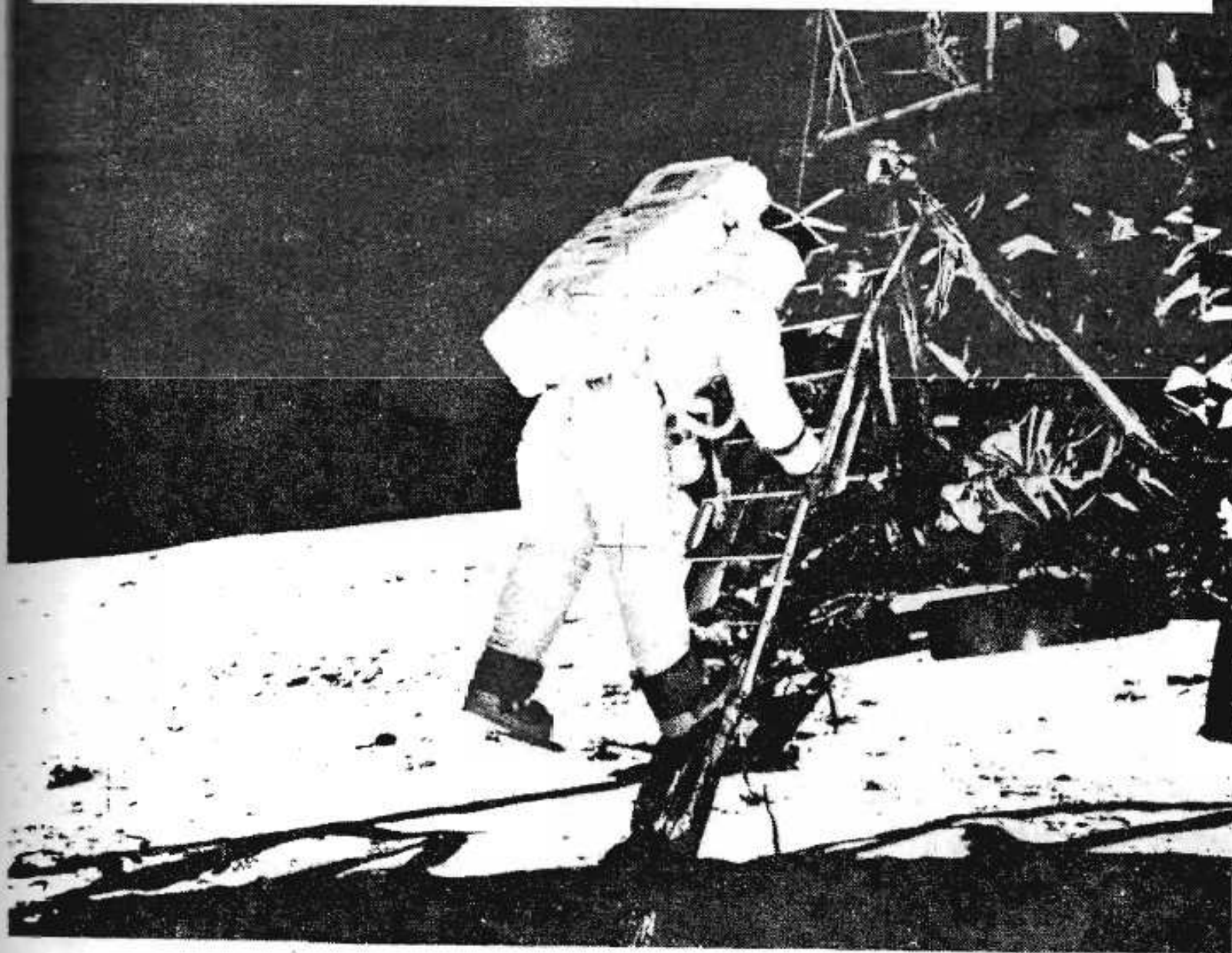
The feat was accomplished by partial reconstruction of the "Enigma" machine from the notes and memory of a Polish mechanic, who had helped build the machine in Germany and who later was spirited out of Warsaw in 1938 or 1939. Thereupon, Winterbotham writes, British cryptographers determined to test the theory "that if a man could

Can secrets be kept for long periods of time? This article supports this view.

CHAPTER 3

THE SEARCH FOR APOLLO SECRETS

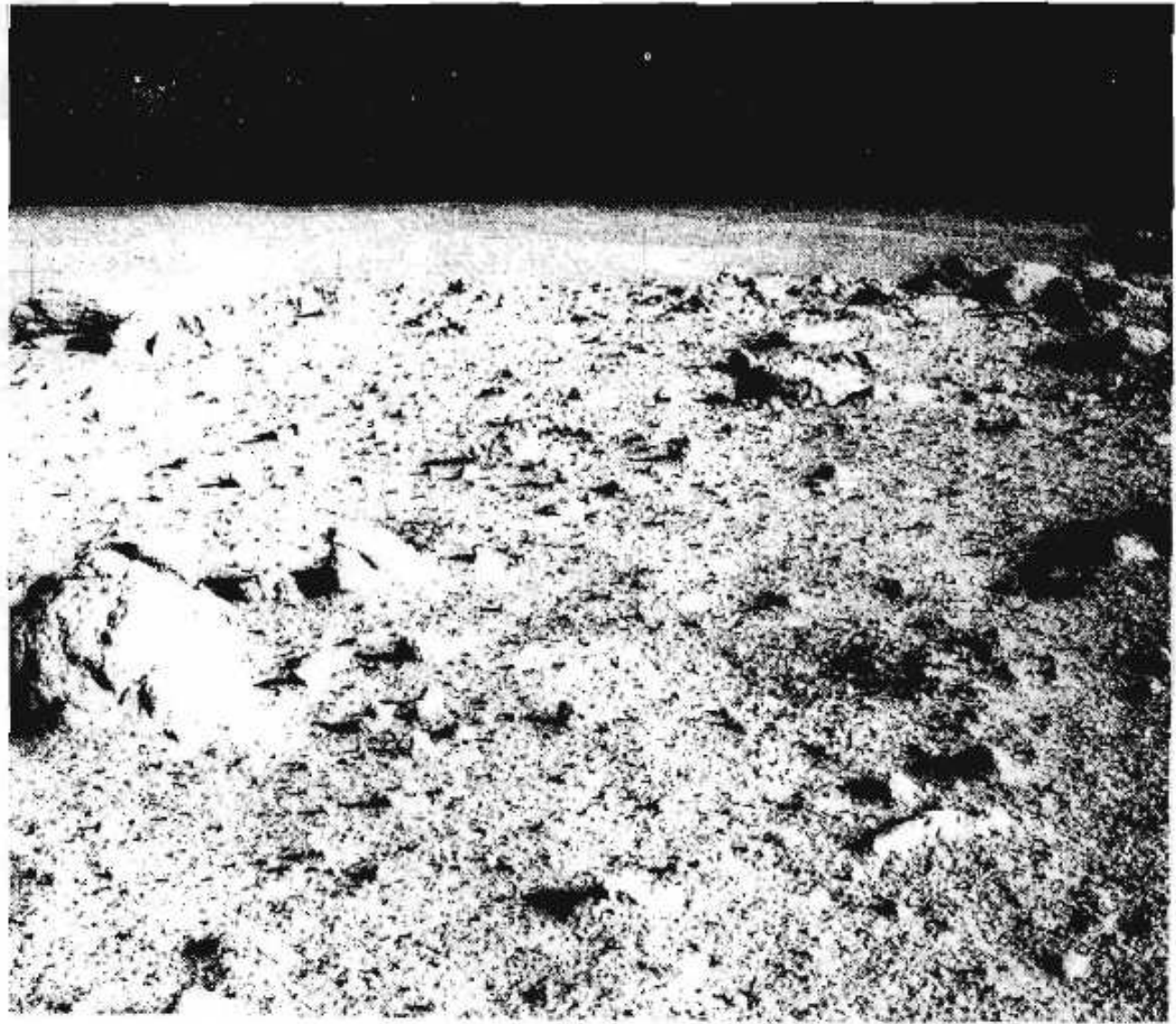
Recognizing that ASP officials would cover their tracks as effectively as the CIA agents who concealed the murderers of President Kennedy, the author made an unusual effort to find clues that would indicate that a simulation had, in fact, taken place. Here is a brief review, in photographic form, of part of that search.



Look closely at both of these purported moon landing shots. Despite the fact that the lunar landing engine was reported to have been operating beyond touchdown, there is NO evidence of the surface being disturbed beneath the engine nozzle!

Near rim of Cone Crater, the Apollo 14
astronauts encountered rocks nearly
as big as a meter (3 feet) in diameter.

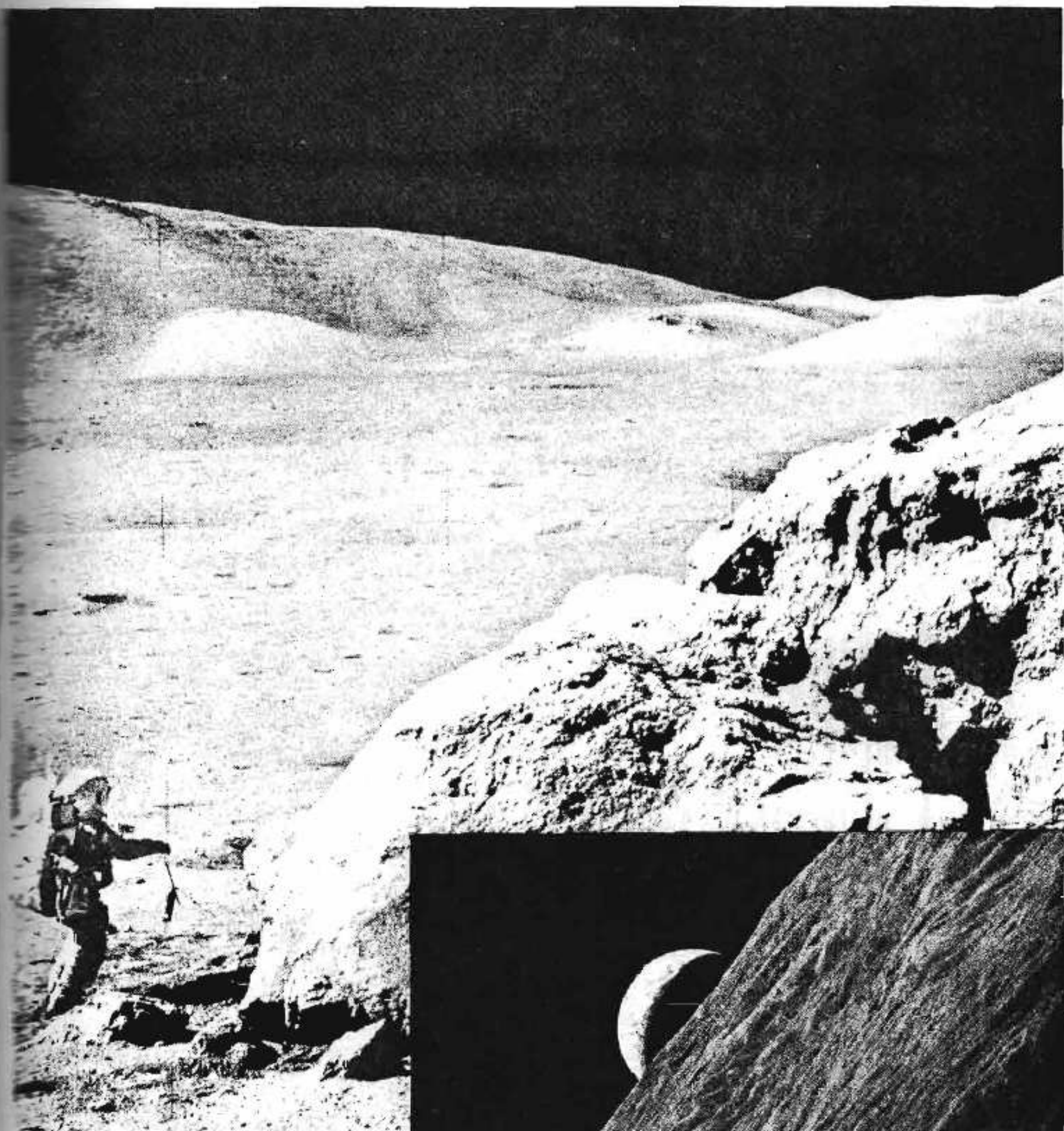
NASA Caption



This is one of many NASA pictures that show signs of composition.
The upper part is quite different from the lower. Again, no stars!



If you have seen the strikingly beautiful moon model
in GoldenGate Park SF, you know how easy it would
have been to create an earth model too.



Stars?

Where are the STARS?





Possibly the most damning shot of all. Here is a clear view of the LEM with no trace whatsoever of any disruption of the surface by the LEM landing engine. Anyone who has ever witnessed any kind of rocket firing knows that the blast from the exit nozzle will devastate the area nearby. And, again, no stars of planets visible in the lunar sky.



There are several anomalies in this fake photo:

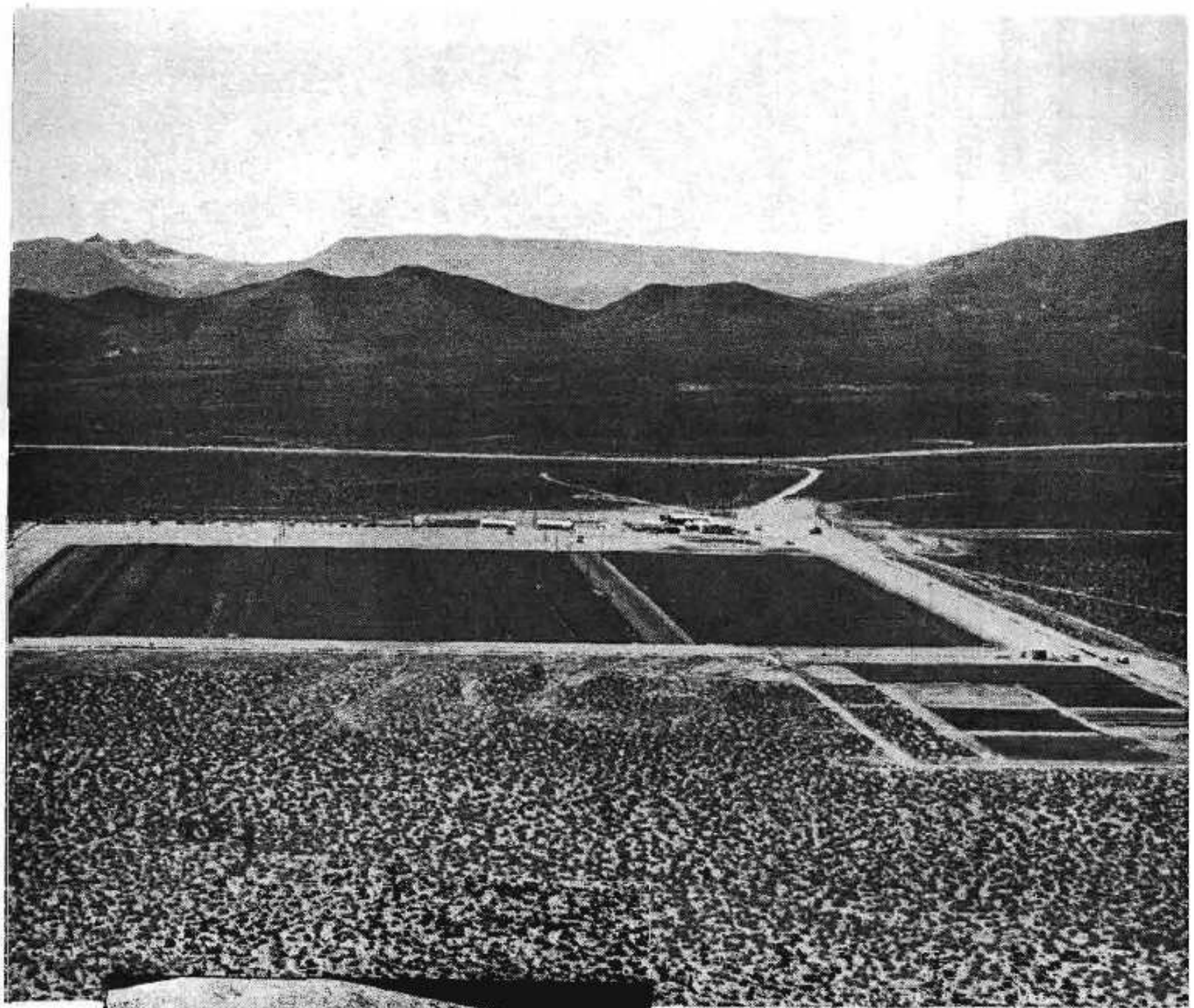
- A. No dust on face shield or in the environment although there would have been if they had truly landed on the moon.
- B. Light is ostensibly from the sun behind Aldrin, and yet his face plate is illuminated. If so, where is the source of illumination? It would have shown in face plate from the position of the cameraman Armstrong whether flash or flood light.
- C. Where are the stars in the lunar sky?
- D. Exposure to the sun on the moon produces the temperature of molten lead plus. In the shadow, temperatures go to virtually absolute zero. No indication of this extreme contrast is shown in this picture.



One of the most famous fake photos. If it were real there would be stars visible in the jet-black sky!

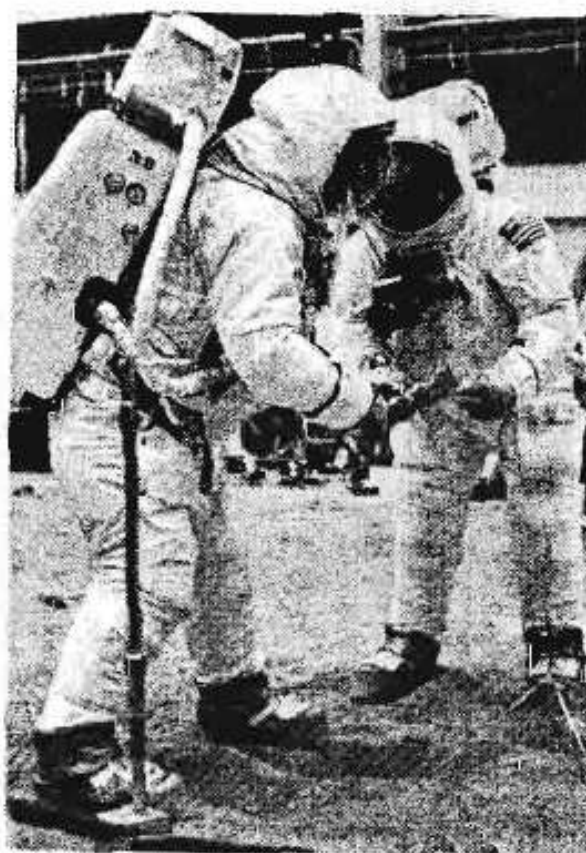
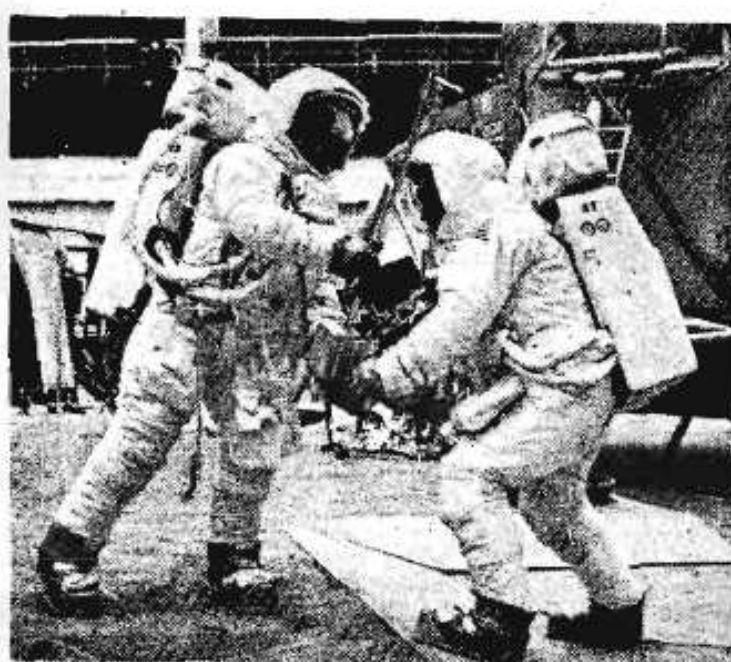
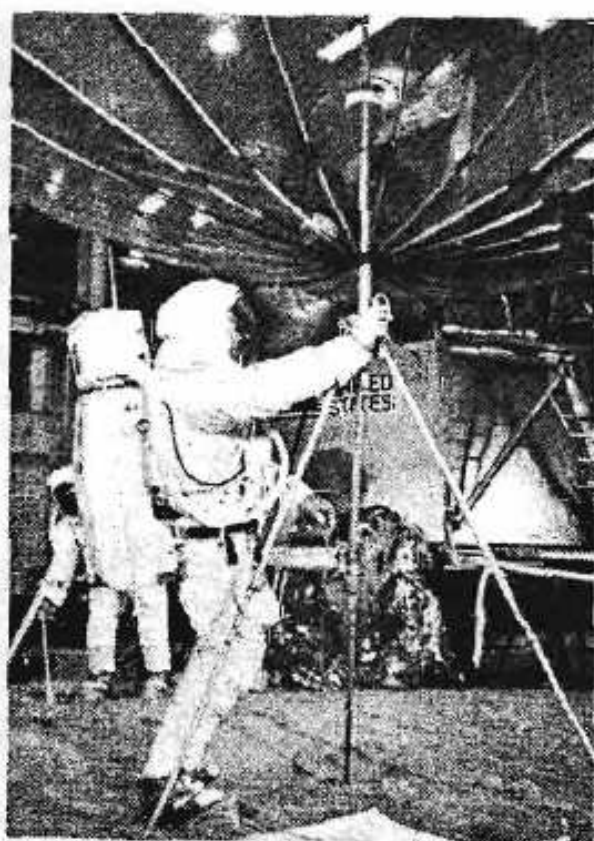


What is the source of light on the faceplate? This should be in deep shadow, as sun is behind the figure. Also, if the source of light is artificial, it should be reflected from the faceplate.



A test farm for radiation studies? Not likely. More probably a cover for the moon set.

Note the striking similarity between the background in this view and the NASA shot purporting to be from the moon below



Note that these practice shots of the astronauts engaged in lunar surface horseplay could have easily been converted to actual location shots by simply finishing the "set".

"2001": THE ANSWER TO THE VISUAL ASPECT OF SIMULATION

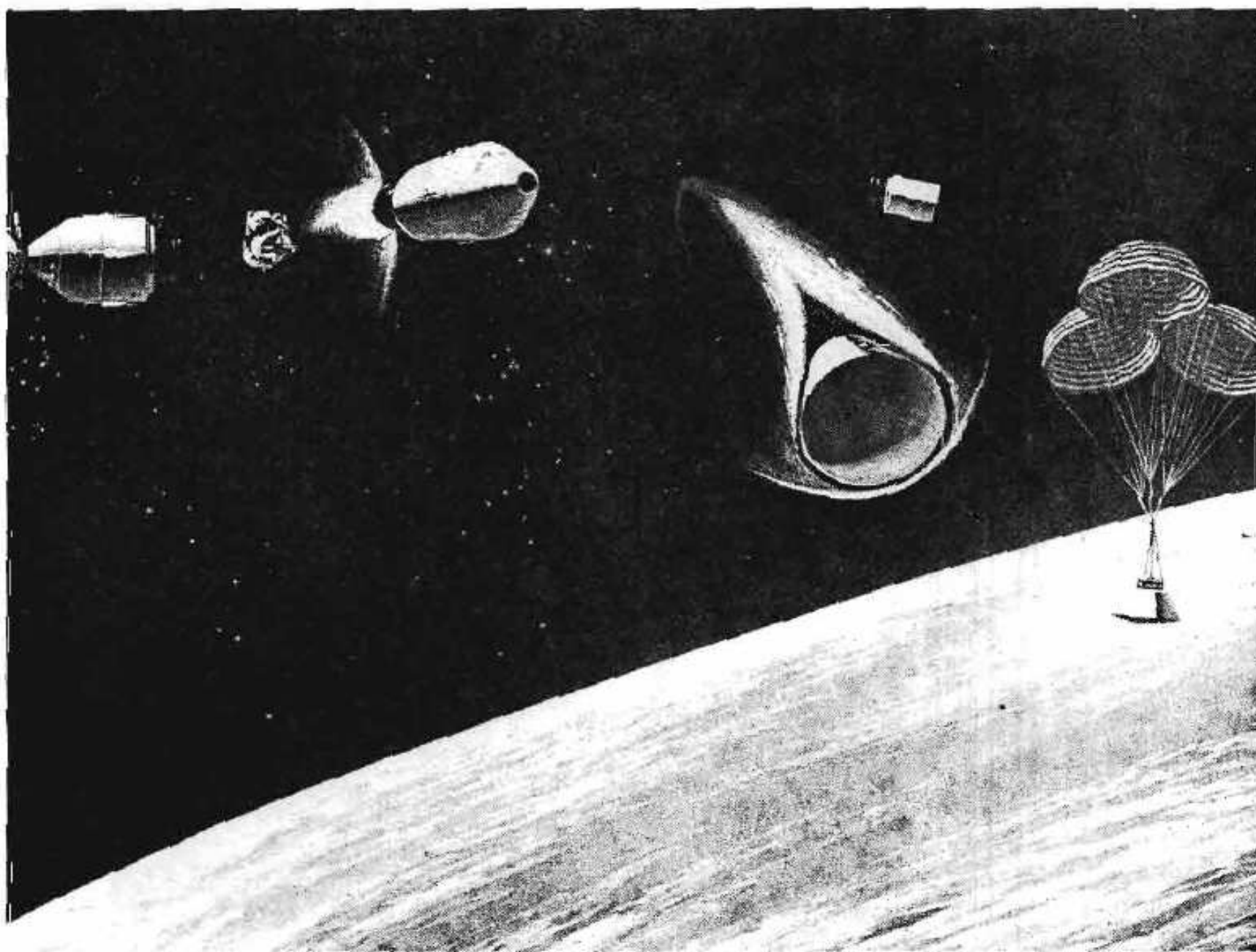
The film, "2001, A Space Odyssey", is considered to be the ne plus ultra of all science fiction movies concerned with space. It was begun in the summer of 1965 at about the time when those who really knew what was happening to the Apollo project began to make their final decisions.

Filming of "2001" continued for two and a half years, and its budget was increased from six million dollars to almost 10 1/2 million!

A total of 205 special effects shots, encompassing a period of one and a half years, was an ingenious cover utilized by ASP. It is possible that even more than \$4.5 million was given to the Kubrick coalition to finance the most perfect space sequences ever shown.

While "2001" was being filmed, Kubrick and his crew consulted with nearly 70 industrial and aerospace corporations, universities, observatories, weather bureaus, laboratories and other institutions to ensure that the film would be technically accurate. Had this been done for ASP without the cover of "2001", much suspicion would have been directed towards those making the inquiries.

Another aspect of the release of "2001" in 1968 is this: The film prepared the American people for filmed versions of space exploration. It would be a simple transition from a huge manned orbiting laboratory gyrating to strains of the "Blue Danube" (as in "2001"), to the relatively prosaic view of two men taking a stroll on the 'moon'.



Re-entry simulation was not difficult... no one could see the capsule until the parachutes opened.

CHAPTER 4

THE APOLLO PROJECT AS POLITICAL EXPEDIENCY

"I believe that we are in a race and I have said many times, Mr. Webb . . . tell me how much money you need and this Committee will authorize all you need."

— James Fulton, Congressman

To realize how important it was to ensure a successful "man on the moon" project, we must first examine the roots of the desire and need for this all-important flight.

Long before space became a factor in U.S.-Russia competition, other aspects of comparison were used by propagandists. For instance, comparisons were made to determine:

1. Amount of time spent by laborers to earn a specific amount of food.
2. Ownership of automobiles, houses and other big-tag items.
3. Female beauty: Russian women were usually shown wearing shawls and long skirts made of heavy burlap.

Thus, when competition is science, specifically, space flight became a factor in the battle for men's minds, no limits were imposed.

In other words, the U.S. became like a frantic gambler who sees ever-increasing losses threatening total disaster. Finally, he mortgages his house and children to make one last colossal bet. He MUST win or all is gone.

NOTE: It has been conjectured that the Soviets intended that a totally spurious race take place, knowing that the financial strains would contribute to a weakening of the U.S. financially and as a world power. However, this is not in keeping with the wheels-within-wheels concept that there is no real competition between the U.S. and Russia (or any other country, for the matter), since the ultimate manipulators are in league.

THE FOUNDATIONS OF SPACE VENTURES IN THE U.S.

Little was done prior to WWII in the U.S. as far as space travel was concerned. Only Goddard and his lone-wolf experiments advanced the technology. As usual, the military was a decade or two late in recognizing an advanced weapon potential.

However, with the search for new death-dealing devices during WWII, rockets came under intensive research and development. Thus, when the German scientists were brought to this country in 1946, they were joined with the nucleus of a group that was to later create an entirely new scientific venture.

Early U.S. efforts employed the tested engines of the V-2 missile. The A-4 engine, as it was called, was the building block of such military missiles as Redstone and Thor. Finally, newer designs evolved into Atlas and Titan. The hardware for these military rockets became the platform on which the subsequent rocket systems were based. Unfortunately, as we have pointed out elsewhere, the choice was always in the liquid propellant engine area.

There is no question that the Russians have employed their efforts in rocketry as a propaganda tool. As Logsdon points out: "The Soviets have used technology as an instrument of propaganda and power politics as illustrated by their great and successful efforts and careful political timing in space exploration. They have sought constantly to present spectacular accomplishments in space as an index of national strength.

"The flight of Sputnik in 1957 was certainly an outstanding manifestation of this concept. It acted as a vigorous prod to U.S. peace efforts. As Lyndon Johnson said, in true shit-kick fashion: "I guess for the first time I started to realize that this country of mine might not be ahead of everything."

Soon, the laissez-faire doctrine of Eisenhower was reversed, by Johnson as Senate minority leader, and later by President Kennedy. NASA, which had been given the assignment for manned flight in space, was energized with personnel and money. The basis for the moon flight decision was now in existence.

CHAPTER 5
STEPS TO SIMULATION

OR

THE CONFLICT OF POLITICAL GOALS WITH SCIENTIFIC REALITIES

"If you can't make it, fake it."

-- Old aerospace saying

Shortly after my assignment to the Rocketdyne Propulsion Field Laboratory in 1956, I made a most *fascinating discovery*: the lunchless picnic. It seems that there were many fine trysting places on the 1,880 rugged, rock-strewn acres that comprised the lab. These did not escape the attention of the young men and women who were free to roam this Western landscape, both off and on assignment.

For example, photo crews often took jeeps to high promontories to photograph rocket engine test stands in the process of construction. There was no objection to taking along a female companion if this did not conflict with work schedules. The nooks and crannies, the low-branched live oaks, the tall wild oats in the spring and people's natural proclivities to romance took care of the rest. Thus, the so-called lunchless picnic became an everyday reality at PFL, or Piffle, as it became known to the natives.

On occasion, these rendezvous were documented with some steamy negatives and positives processed, of course, in the photo lab during the graveyard shifts.

Personally, I found this relaxed, permissive atmosphere both amusing and contradictory. The latter, because, after all, in the spring of 1956 there was a pervading climate of doom: unless we could develop an engine to launch our hydrogen bombs over Russia first, the Russians would surely do us in at an earlier date. So frantic was the pace, that I was actually hired in on overtime, although my knowledge of rockets and technical writing both equalled zero.

To watch Bobby, the Area II photographer, and Betty, the still photo file clerk, go bounding off in an Air Force jeep without either lunch or Speed Graphic, was hard to compromise with the daily bulletins which reminded us of the missile gap. But I soon discovered that the need of the Air Force for a cluster of engines to propel the Atlas Inter-continental ballistic missile always or nearly always took the back seat to anything even remotely entertaining and immediate.

This attitude went far beyond giggly rolls in the tall weeds behind Vertical Test Stand II. Actually, anything personal always had a DX plus priority. (DX was the government's highest priority designation. With it, anything could be obtained . . . men, materials, money; and no one could offer a valid or viable protest). A few items recalled at random will make this point clear.

Item One: A leading engineer charged with an important aspect of rocket testing had a fine set of patio supports fabricated from the best quality stainless steel. Although they could have been purchased at any home improvement supply center for \$2 each in plain steel, nothing was too good for this important leader of rocket engine development. I surveyed the handsome foursome and asked my friend how much he thought they cost the USAF and thus the taxpayers: "Oh, I'd say about \$90 each, if you don't count the overhead."

Item Two: Of course, the tab for G-jobs, as personal work was always called, was not always this high. For example, if I wanted a photograph of my unit to show my children, this could be arranged for the asking.

Item Three: But then there was the strange case of Vernier Supply Group. An instance of scientific reality that certainly conflicted with the political goals of the pre-Apollo era. It seems that after the successful development of the small Vernier rocket engine for the Atlas engine cluster, the unit was transferred to the main plant in Canoga Park, some 25 minutes away by car or company bus.

No one, however, thought to transfer the small group that had functioned as a logistical supply unit for the main Vernier group. Therefore, these people, unit leader, his secretary, a unit clerk and four purchasing agents -- seven in all -- remained behind at PFL with no activity to help pass the time. Rather than alert the main unit of their forlorn abandonment, the unit leader assumed the attitude that if they were called for, they would come. If not, they would jolly well stay at free-and-easy "Piffle" for all time!

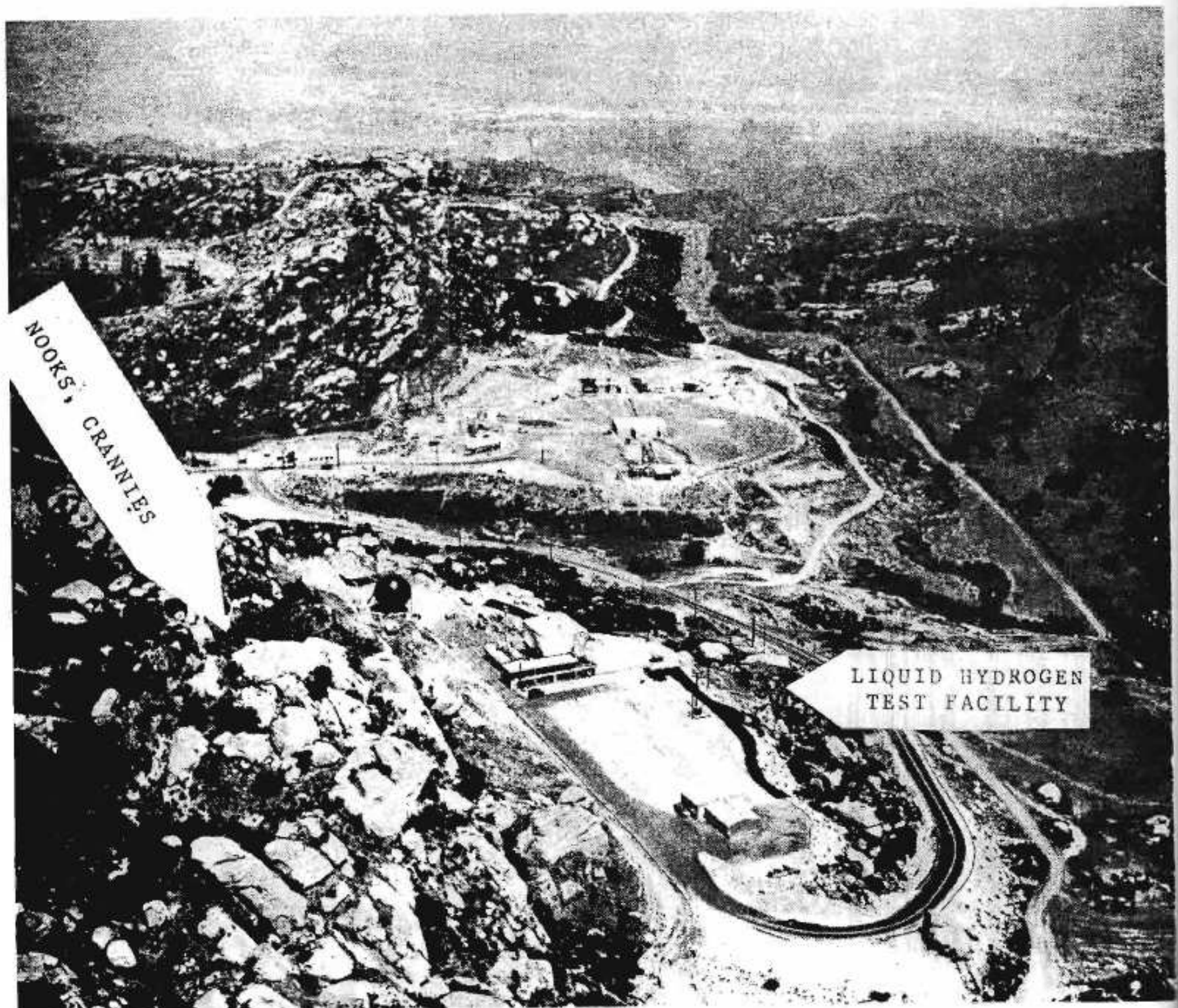
And so the modern personification of Custer's Last Stand, the doughty Vernier Supply Group, remained on for almost six months. What did they do? Well, fortunately, Rocketdyne had a patented time save form known as the AVO (Avoid Verbal Orders). A simple piece of paper, it was used to make and receive various communications interdepartmentally. Thus, the unit leader merely dictated a variety of tasks to be performed within the unit in situ, and then saw that these tasks were promptly carried out.

Anyone who has spent any time at all in the armed forces, in civil service or any related bureaucratic activity, will instantly recognize the wisdom of this unit leader in "not making any waves". This latter phrase was a watchword throughout North American Aviation and meant exactly what it implies . . . as long as the paychecks are delivered on time and are reasonably correct, don't cause any uproar.

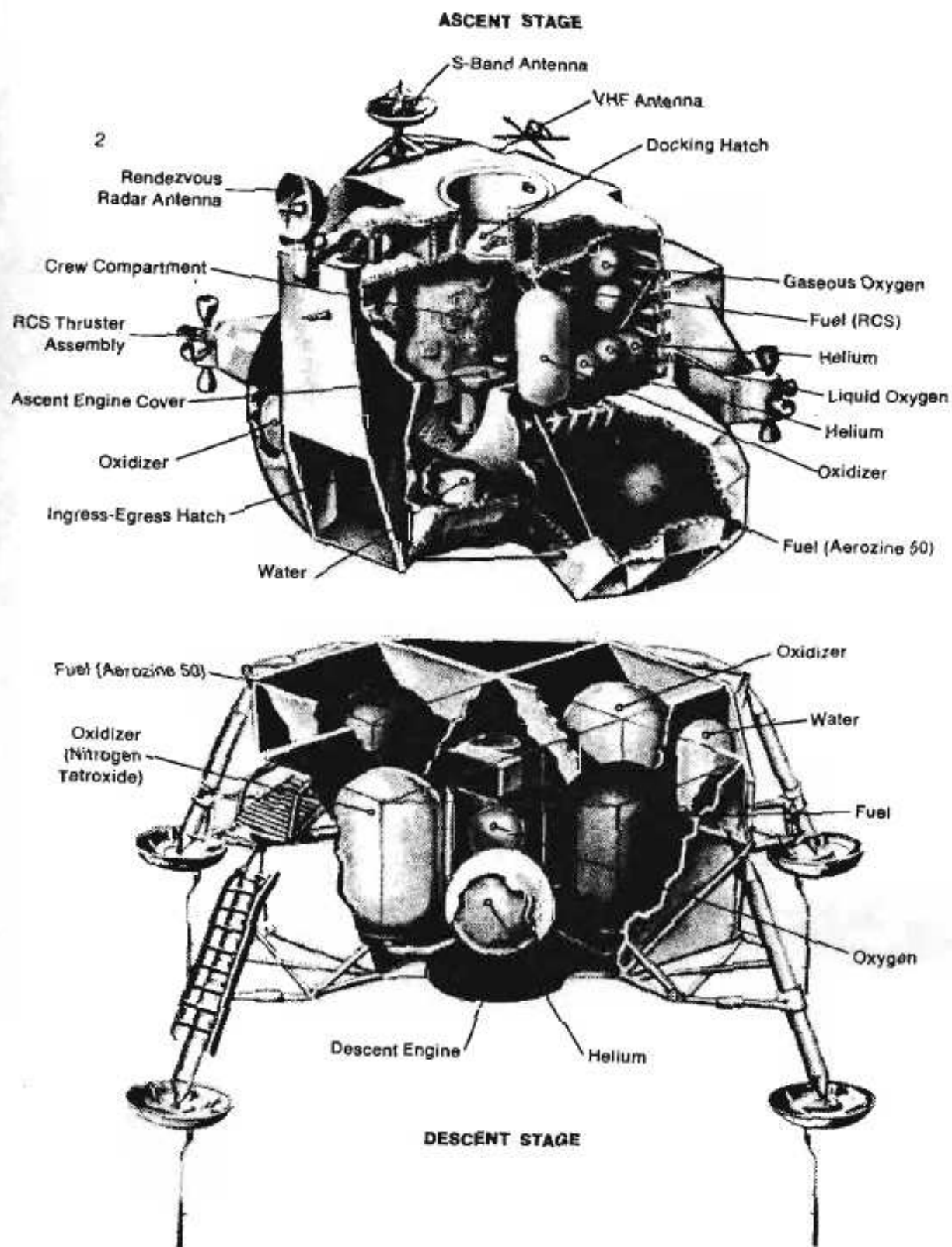


Author (standing, left) with crew of technical publications unit at Propulsion Field Laboratory (Rocketdyne, a division of North American Aviation) about 1961. Others are Les Helson (standing, right), Norma Bachman (seated, left), and Ginny Beery (seated, right).

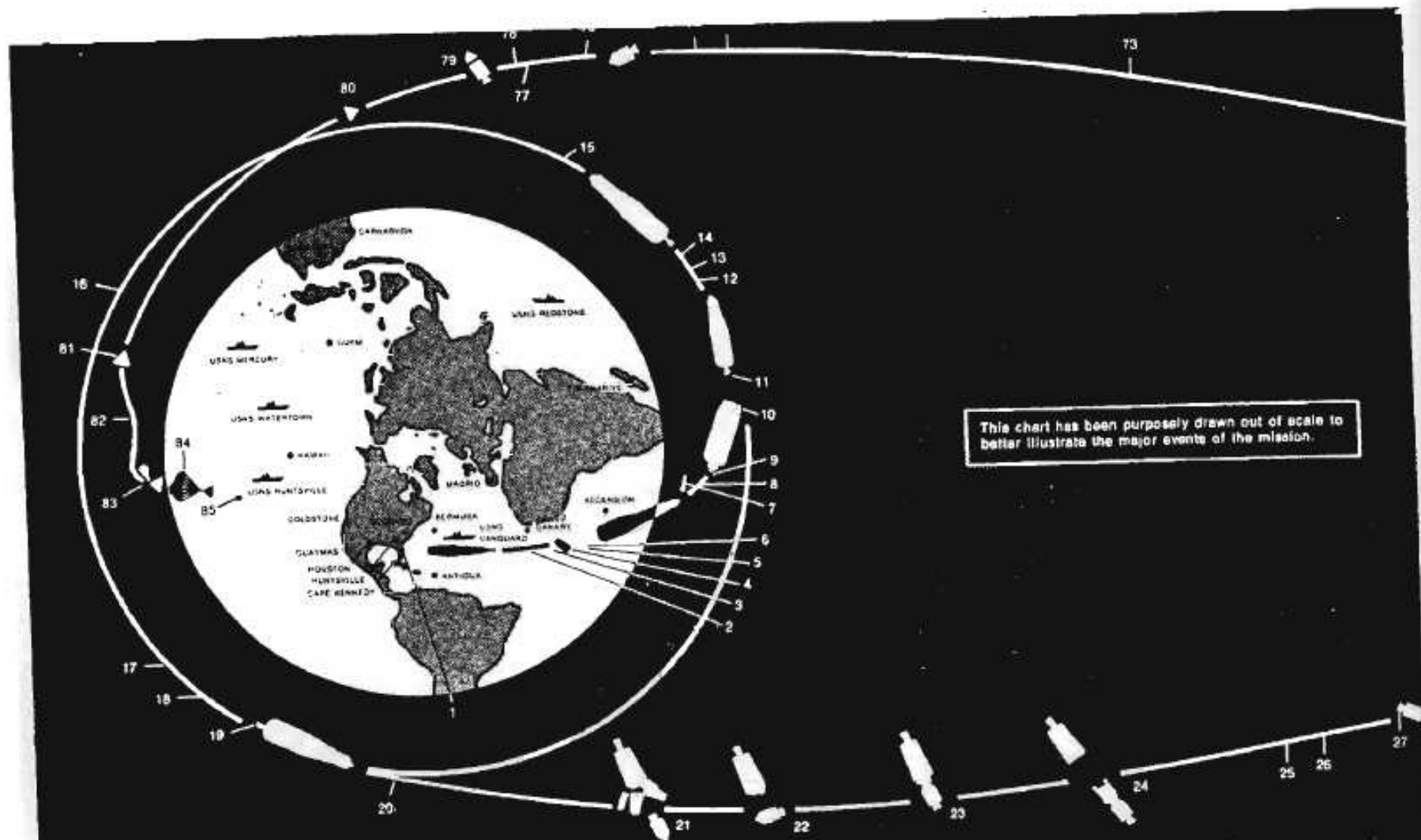
It is a tribute to the Rocketdyne Industrial Engineering Department's astuteness and diligence that no more than six months passed before this group was discovered hiding in the corner of Building Delta, Area II, and promptly transferred to Canoga Park. Why hadn't the parent group missed them? Oh, there's always lots to do without having to call on your supply group for entertainment . . .



A part of the rocky Propulsion Field Laboratory in the Simi Hills in California in 1959. San Fernando Valley is in the distance.



The complexity of the LEM is shown in this cutaway. Failure of an item (fuel tank, battery, igniter) could doom any mission, and most of the equipment was untried in space as of July, 1969.



This chart has been purposely drawn out of scale to better illustrate the major events of the mission.

LUNAR LANDING MISSION PROFILE

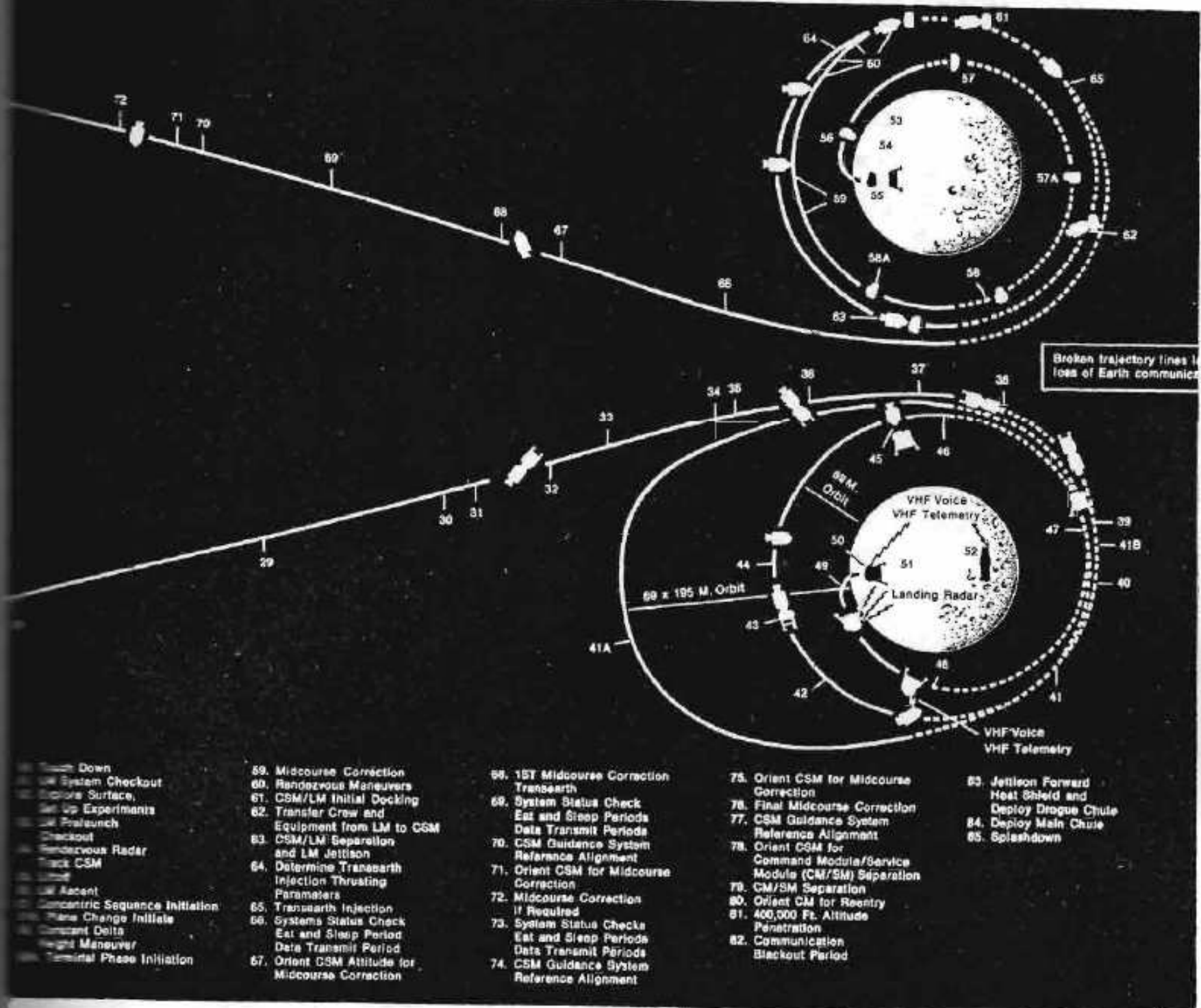
1. Lift-Off
2. S-IC Powered Flight
3. S-IC Engine Cutoff
4. S-IC/S-II Separation, S-IC Retro, S-II Ullage
5. S-II Engines Ignition
6. S-IC/S-II Interstage Jettison
7. Launch Escape Tower Jettison
8. S-II Powered Flight
9. S-II Engines Cutoff
10. S-II/S-IVB Separation, S-II Retro, S-IVB Ullage
11. S-IVB Engine Ignition
12. S-IVB Powered Flight

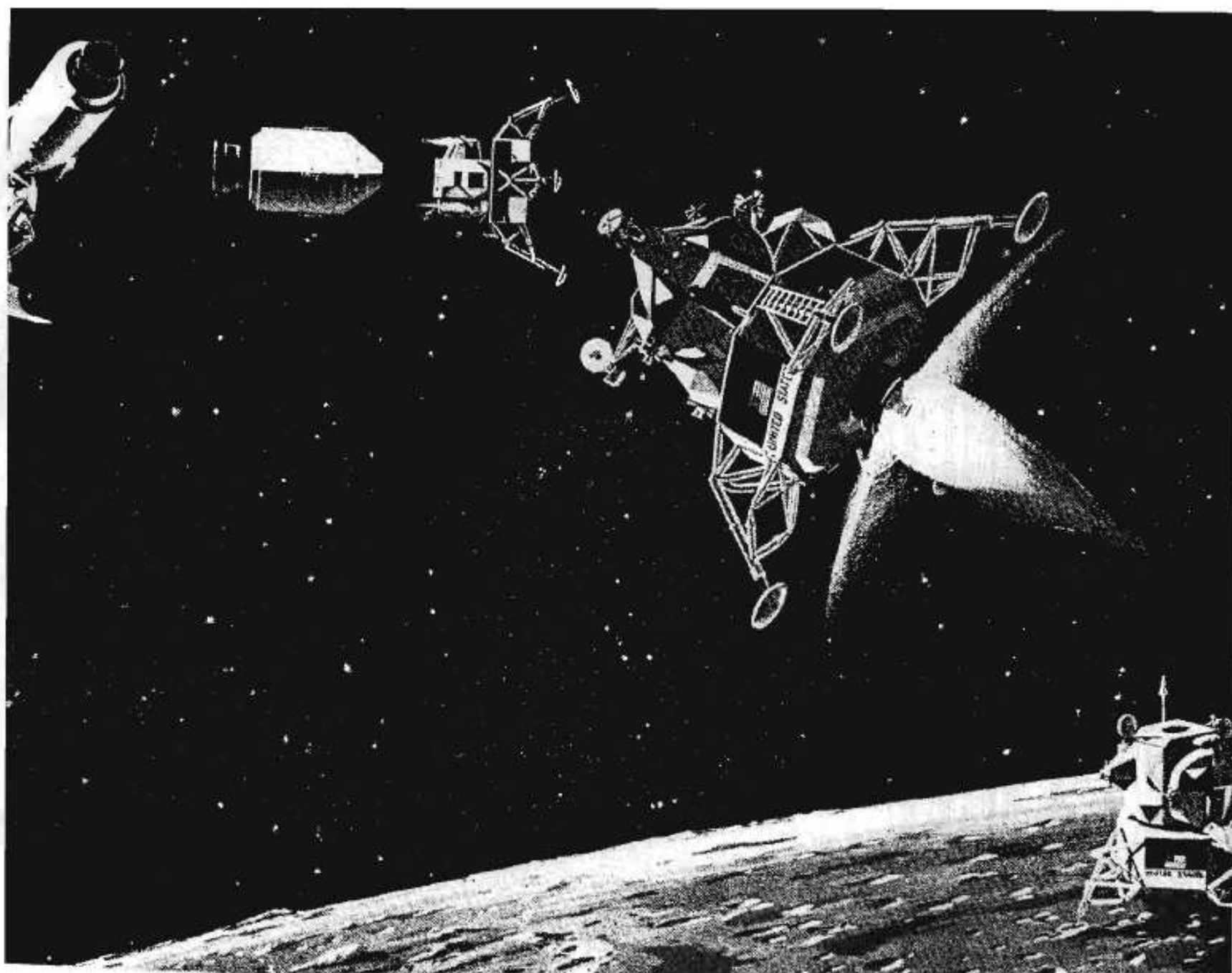
13. S-IVB Engine Cutoff
14. Earth Parking Orbit
15. Begin Systems Status Checks
16. Command Service Module (CSM) Guidance System Reference Alignment
17. Orient for Translunar Injection
18. S-IVB Ullage
19. S-IVB Engine Ignition
20. Translunar Injection
21. CSM Separation from Lunar Module (LM) Adapter
22. CSM 180° Turnabout
23. CSM Docking With LM/S-IVB
24. CSM/LM Separation From S-IVB

25. CSM Guidance System Reference Alignment
26. Orient Space Craft Attitude For Midcourse Correction
27. SM Engine Ignition
28. 1st Midcourse Correction Translunar
29. Systems Status Checks Eat and Sleep Periods Data Transmit Periods
30. CSM Guidance System Reference Alignment
31. Orient Space Craft Attitude for Midcourse Correction
32. Midcourse Correction, If Required

33. Systems Status Checks Eat and Sleep Period Data Transmit Period
34. CSM Guidance System Reference Alignment
35. Orient S/C Attitude for Midcourse Correction
36. Final Midcourse Correction Translunar
37. CSM Guidance System Reference Alignment
38. Orient Space Craft Attitude for Lunar Orbit Insertion
39. Lunar Orbit Insertion
40. Begin Lunar Orbit
41. CSM Guidance System Reference Alignment

- 41A. 1ST 2 Lunar Orbits 69 x 195 M.
- 41B. Circularization Burn Beginning of 3RD Orbit
42. Systems Status Check
43. Pilot Transfer to LM
44. LM Systems Activation and Checkout
45. CSM/LM Separation
46. Orient LM for Descent Orbit Insertion
47. Descent Orbit Insertion
48. LM Guidance System Reference Alignment
49. LM Descent

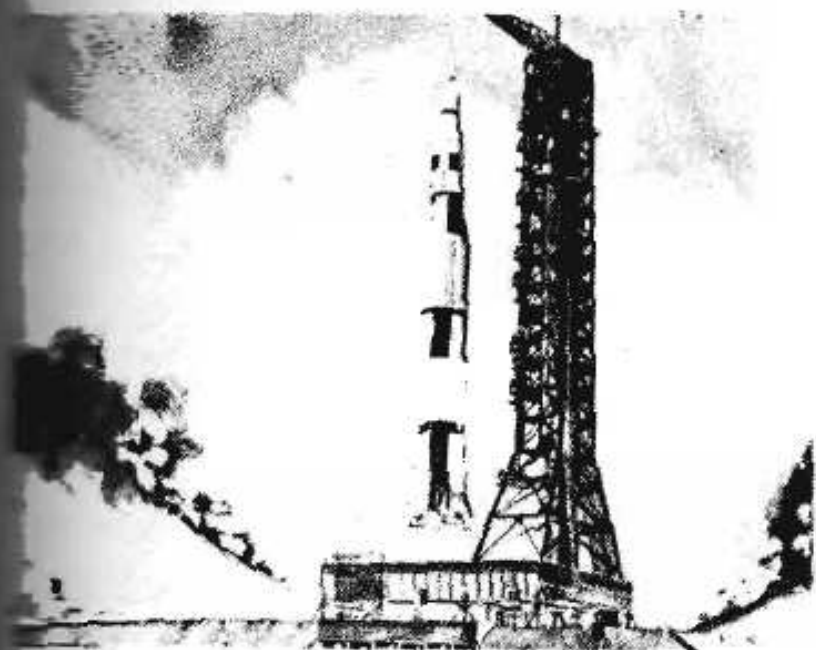




Statisticians say that completing this maneuver six times without a single failure is beyond probability. It is similar to the Kennedy murder fact: The deaths of 18 people who had something relevant to say about his death within a four year period afterwards has a natural probability factor of one in three trillion!

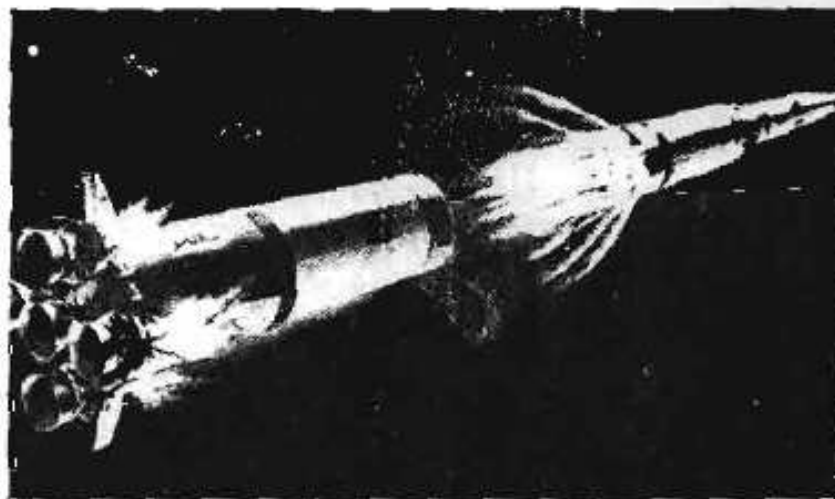
THE APOLLO PROJECT ACCORDING TO NASA

Over-all view: To complete the Apollo moon landing mission required that 15 separate steps take place. Each one perfect or very nearly so. And most important, all to take place within a rigid time schedule. According to NASA, these are the 15 phases...



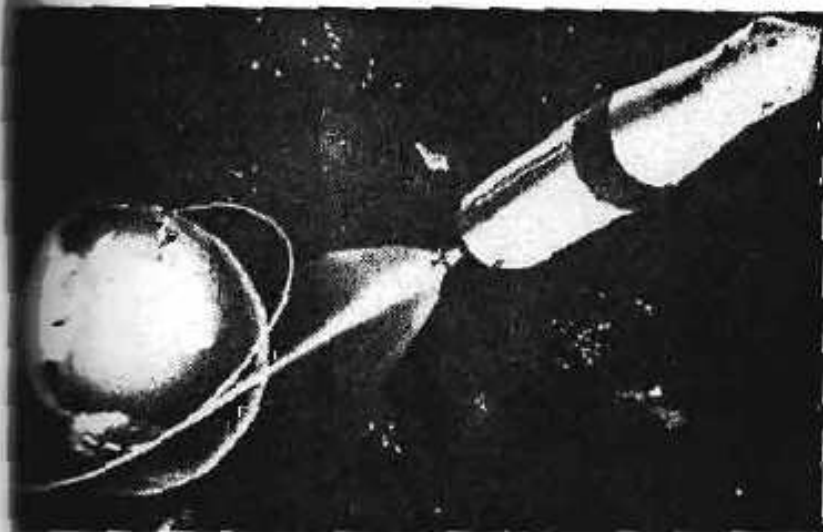
1 Liftoff: Three Apollo astronauts leave Kennedy Space Center for the moon.

...this been done with the five F-1 engines as planned, it would have been most spectacular fire bomb. Unfortunately, it could have taken Miami ... it.



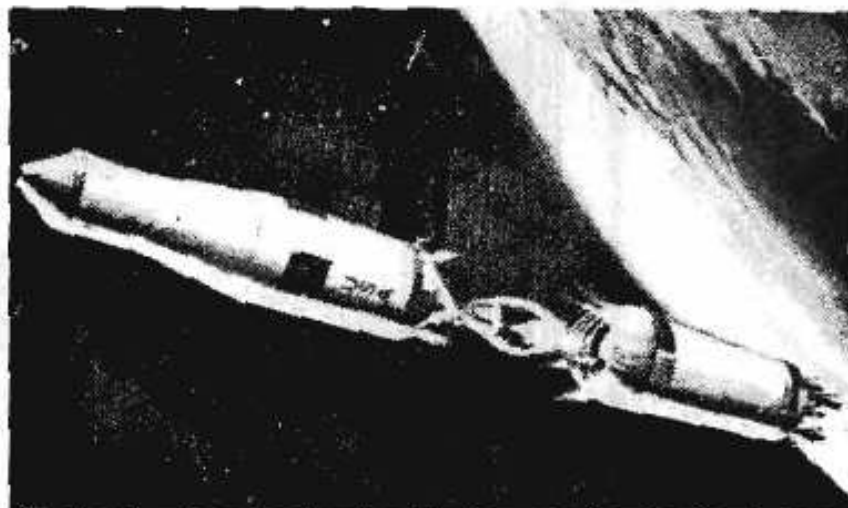
2 After 2½ minutes the first stage drops away, and the second stage ignites.

This is true, especially since the astronauts are not on board but safely en route to the moon surface set.



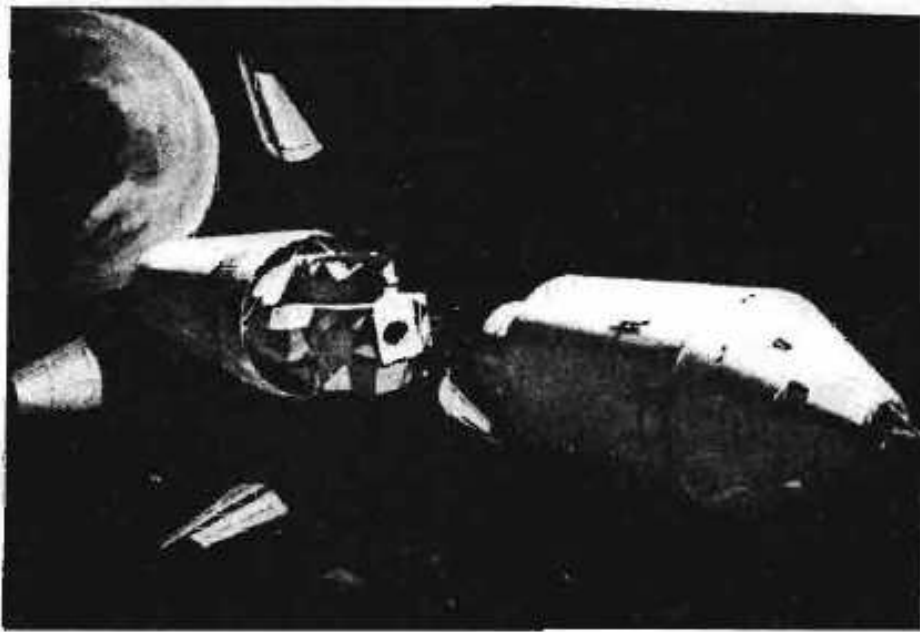
3 The second stage burns 6½ minutes; the third stage achieves earth orbit.

...this altitude and speed, everything is safely out of sight and simulations ... take place in astrophysical ... and quiet.



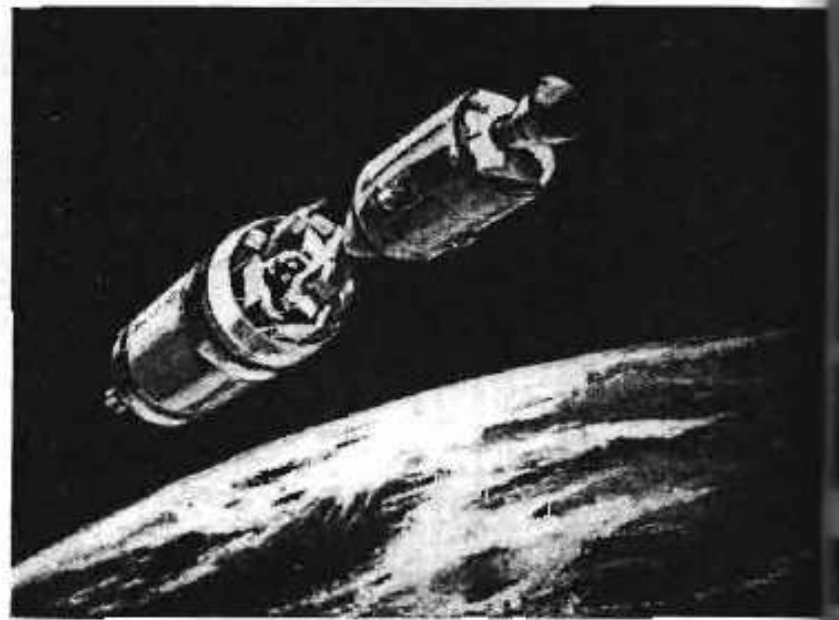
4 After checkout in orbit, the third stage fires again on a lunar trajectory.

Let's see now... with everything going 24,000 miles per hour...



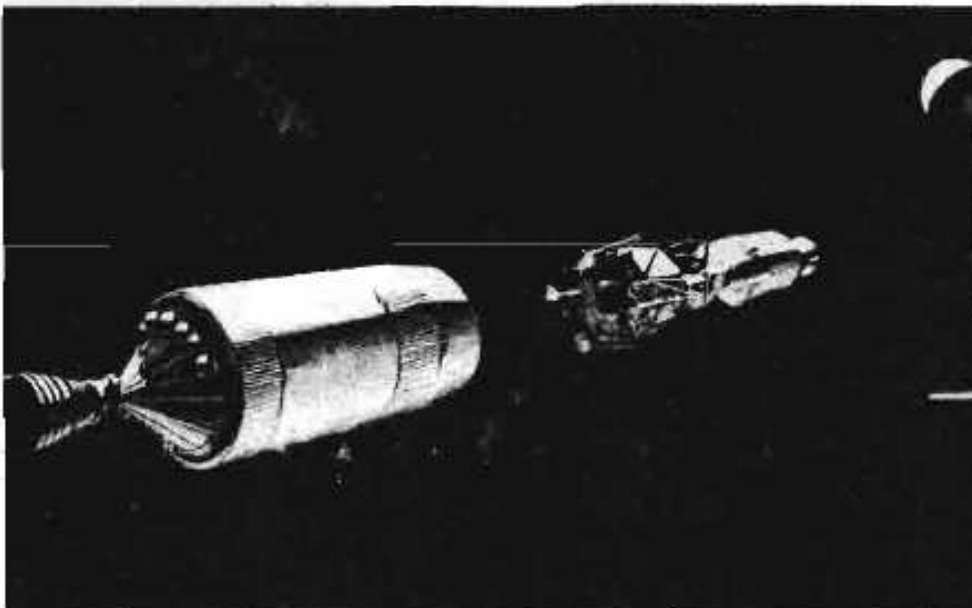
5 Adapter panels open; the command/service module begins its turn in space.

Each move must be made with precision.



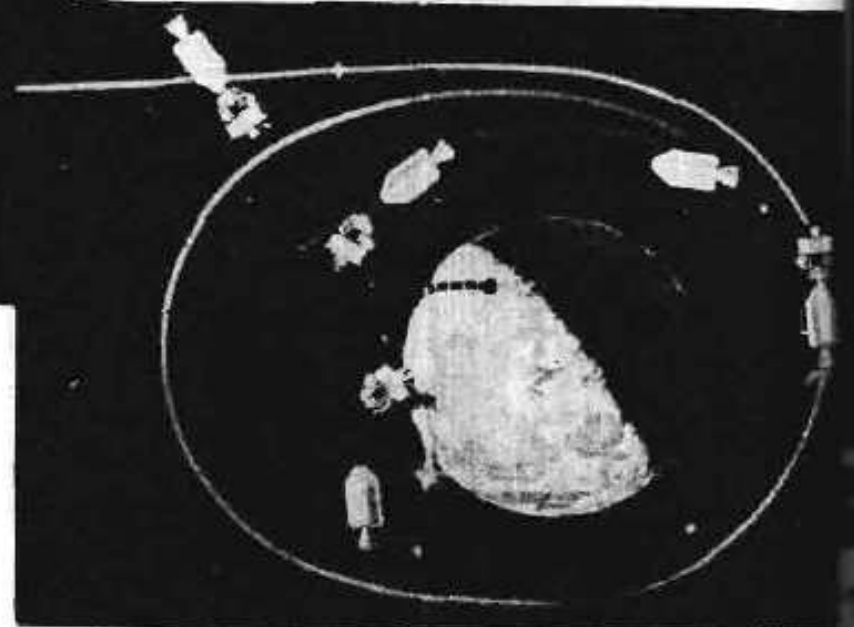
6 The command/service module turns and docks with the lunar module.

Doesn't all of this seem to be a bit complicated? Wouldn't it have been possible to have the various modules in the proper sequence on earth?



7 After docking, the spacecraft separates from the Saturn V's third stage.

No comment other than to deplore the making of a junk yard of outer space.

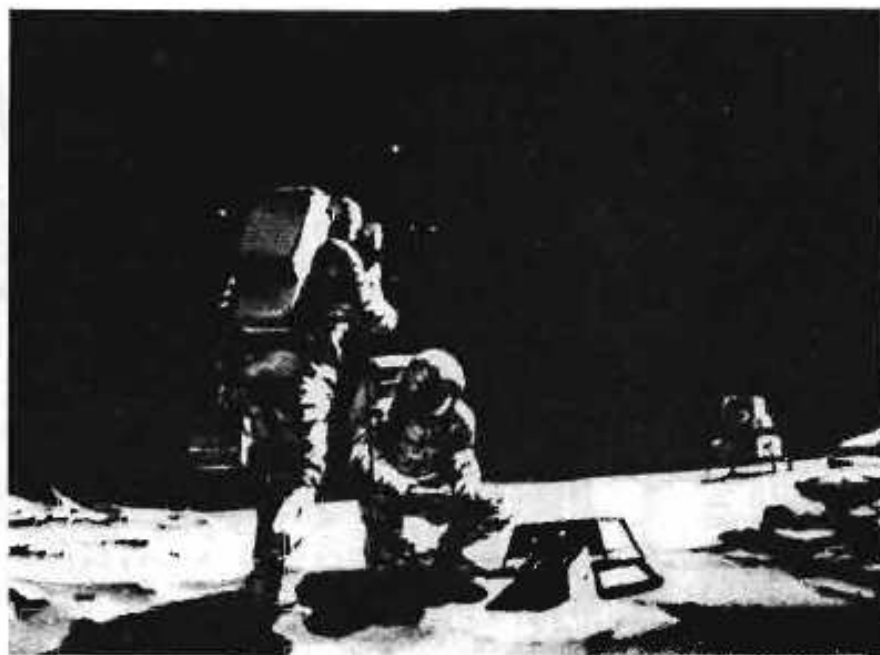


8 The service module engine fires to slow the spacecraft into lunar orbit.

More than a quarter of a million miles and with no hits by stray meteors, problems with solar flares or difficulties with the Tang.



9 One astronaut remains in lunar orbit while two land on the moon in the lunar module.



10 The two astronauts explore the moon, obtain samples and place instruments.

Not only the most hazardous, but the most unbelievable. Again, particularly and especially when viewed as having been done repeatedly and with NO mishap whatsoever.



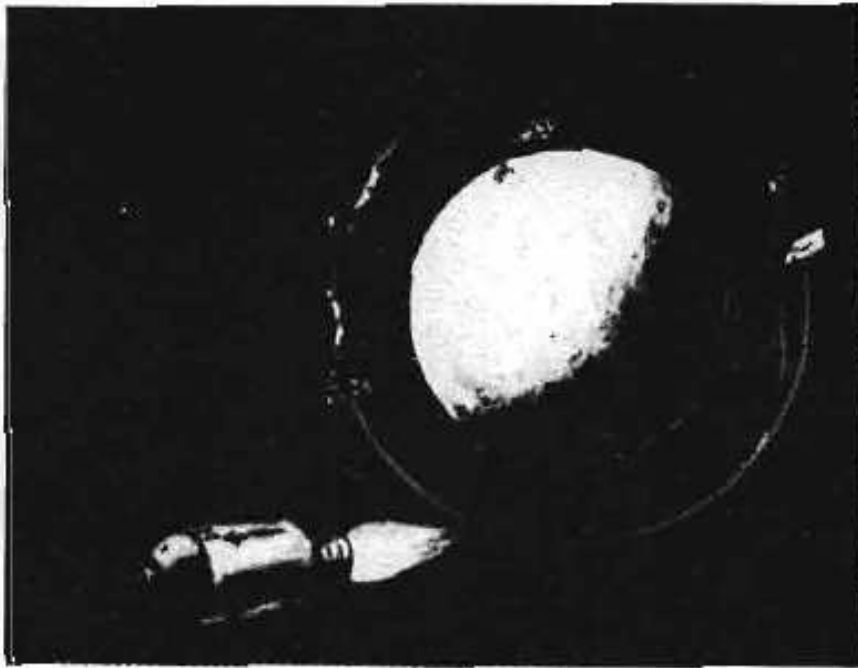
11 With descent stage as a launch pad, the ascent stage fires for liftoff.



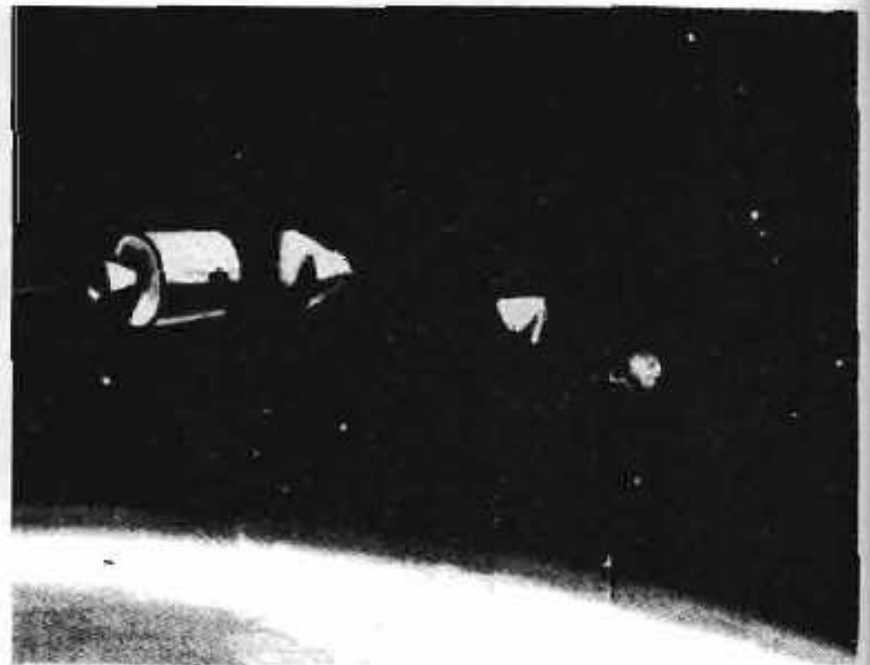
12 Astronauts in lunar module rendezvous and dock with command module.

That's eleven sevens in a row and each with increasing complexity.

Perhaps Anatole France could see into the future for he once said...
"All the historical books which contain no lies are extremely tedious."



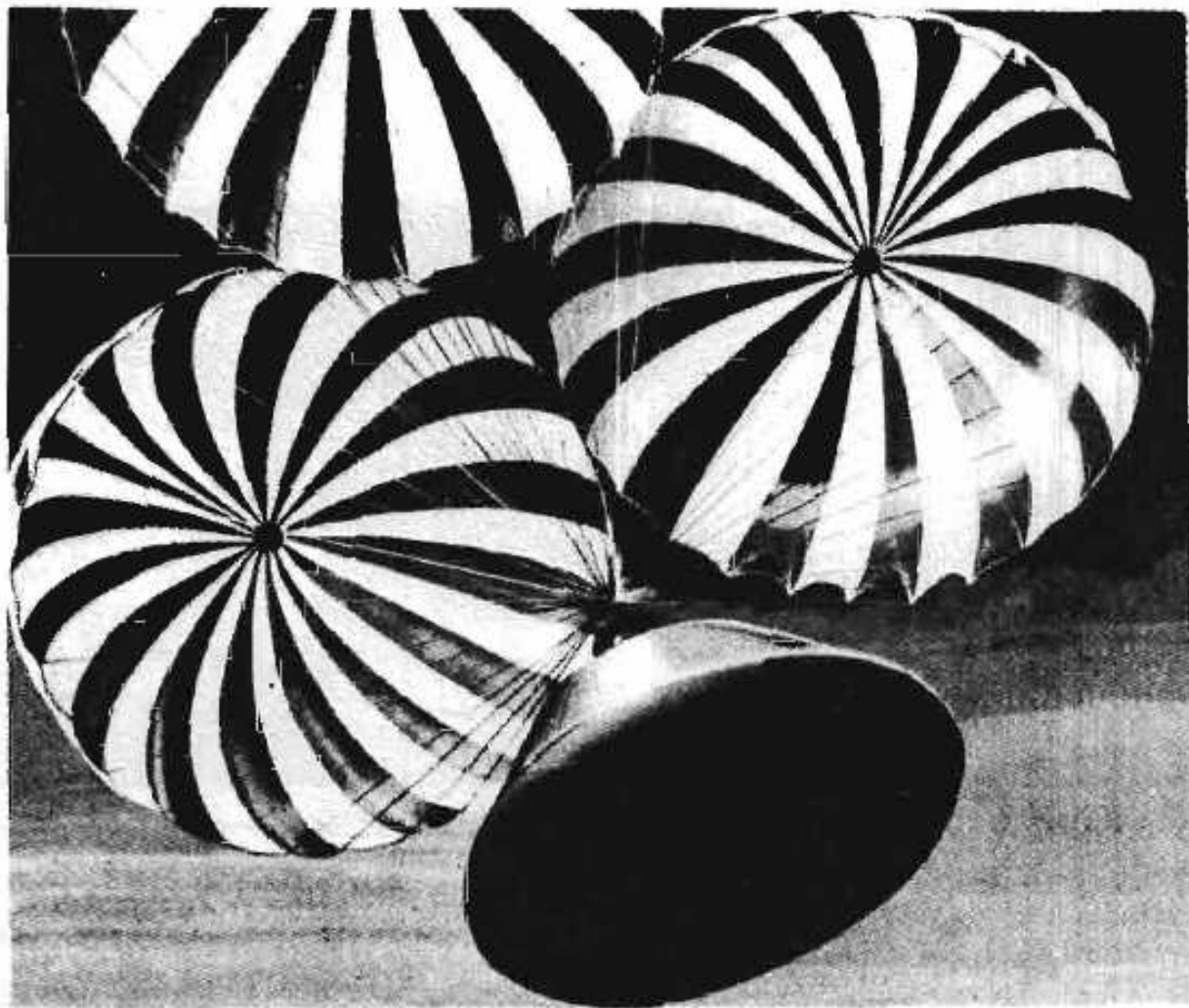
13 The lunar module is abandoned in orbit and the astronauts head for earth.



14 With service module jettisoned, the command module makes fiery reentry.

More junk cluttering up space if we are to believe all that is pictured.

And still more junk... just think of how many of these are whizzing around in space after seven Apollo "missions".



15 Slowed by the atmosphere, the spacecraft parachutes into the Pacific Ocean.

No comment... the picture above is evidence enough.

CHAPTER 6

MURDER BY NEGLIGENCE ON PAD 34

"The fire hazard always existed and NASA, North American Aviation and everyone else connected with the Apollo program should have known it. Inside the command module were all three factors that could start a fire: frayed wiring, combustibles and, worst of all, pure oxygen that made the capsule an oxygen bomb."

— "Mission To The Moon"

Most historians of the Apollo era agree that the fire in the command capsule which killed Gus Grissom, Ed White and Roger Chaffee was a culmination of mis-management and negligence on the part of NASA. Although more than 20,000 instances of failure had been logged prior to this untimely disaster, it was this incident, the flaming death of three men, that finally focused worldwide attention on the shortcomings, errors and outright criminal behavior of NASA management.

It is obvious that NASA had a better public relations department than it did a safety division. The public had never been adequately warned of the impending disaster although there were many ominous mentions in the trade press. Aviation Week, Aerospace Technology and other magazines which the general public never reads, reported all events, good and bad. There were a few mentions in obscure journals such as this from the Columbia Journalism Review by J.A. Skardon: "Through 1966 and up to the time of the Apollo fire, there was a series of accidents which, if viewed as a pattern, could have alerted the press (and public) to a need for a thorough re-examination of the Apollo program."

And from the Journal of Spacecraft and Rockets, by F. J. Hendel of North American Aviation in mid-1964: "Oxygen is more important to the survival of man than food or water. On the other hand, it presents a fire hazard which is especially great on the launching pad when the cabin is pressurized with pure oxygen at more than atmospheric pressure. No fire-fighting methods have been developed that can cope with a fire in pure oxygen."

As "Mission To The Moon" cites: "Neither NASA or NAA were prepared for a fire on the ground. Clearly the largest and most complex research and development program ever undertaken was far less than a perfect prototype for large-scale technological projects. Its decay had been spreading like a slow systemic cancer for many years."

Our contention: if any agency of the government could not handle a relatively simple problem on the ground, how could it expect to handle a complex problem or problems in space?

C/ Legislative Reference

INVESTIGATION INTO APOLLO 204 ACCIDENT

FILE COPY NASA Office of Legislative Affairs HEARINGS

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NASA ~~OVERSIGHT~~

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON

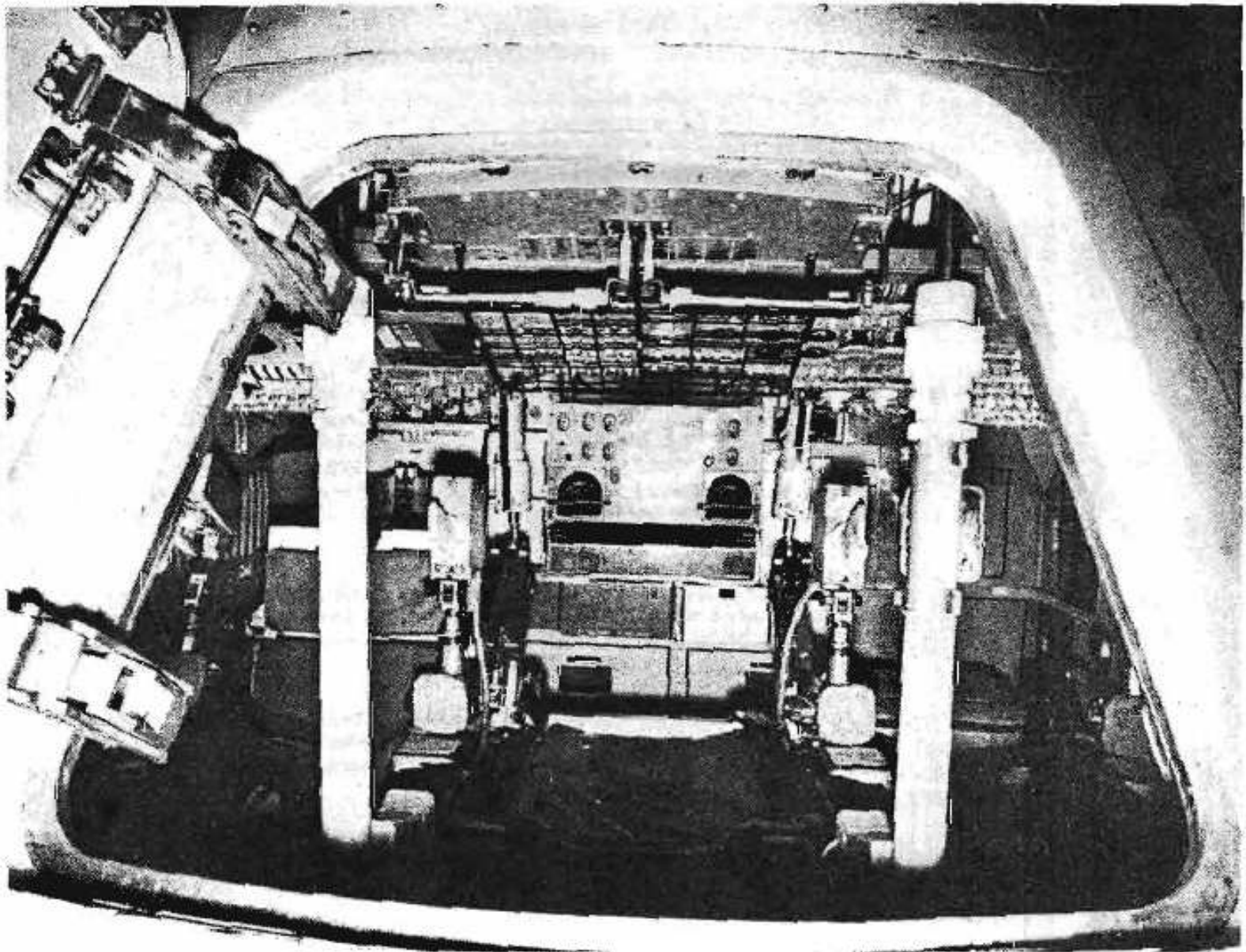
SCIENCE AND ASTRONAUTICS

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETIETH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

Readers are advised to obtain a copy of this startling report from their senator or congressman.



Command module of the type in which Grissom, Chaffee and White were burned to death in January, 1967. Inadequate safety measures were responsible for their deaths.

Mr. TEAGUE. With the conditions you pictured here, do you think we could be successful in any of our shots?

Mr. BARON. No, sir; no, sir; I don't think so.

Mr. TEAGUE. We have had a lot of successes!

Mr. BARON. Yes, sir; you have. But not on the Apollo program.

There are some most revealing passages in the testimony of hapless Thomas Baron who was found dead in his car at a railway crossing a few days after he testified. Coincidence? We wonder.



The fabulous Las Vegas "Strip", one of the main reasons why the ASP base was located only an hour's drive away. MGM Grand Hotel, at right, is booked up solid for three years. Try the Dunes for a room.

CHAPTER 7

WHY THE LAS VEGAS AREA WAS CHOSEN AS THE HEADQUARTERS FOR THE APOLLO SIMULATION PROJECT

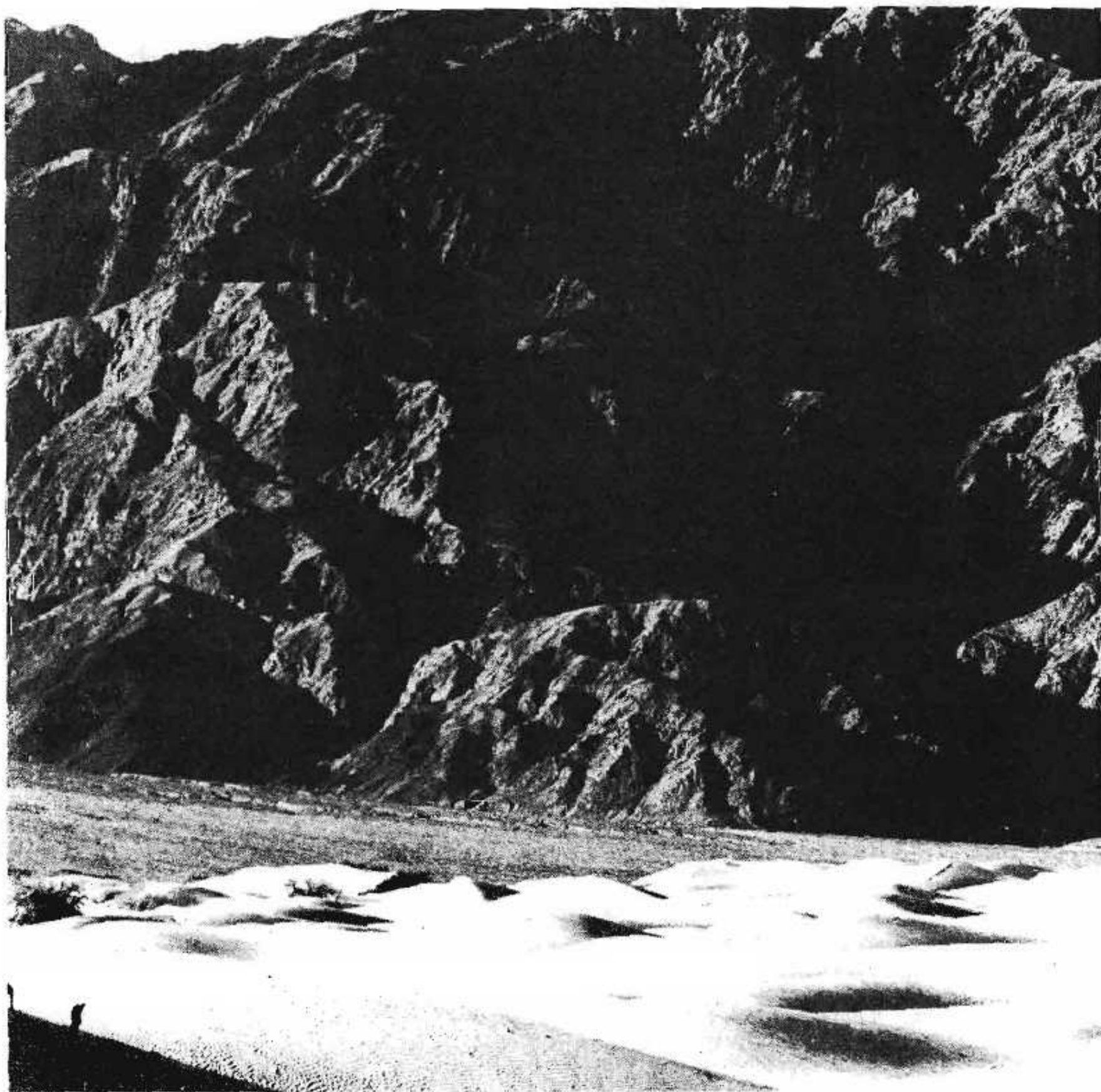
Pictures tell this story best. Thus, we are grateful to the Las Vegas News Bureau for providing us with a fine selection of photographs which reveal why both top management and the astronauts themselves chose southern Nevada as the site for simulation activities.



The secret oasis on the Mercury base with astronauts and their wives enjoying a cool swim. Few people know of this aspect of LV.



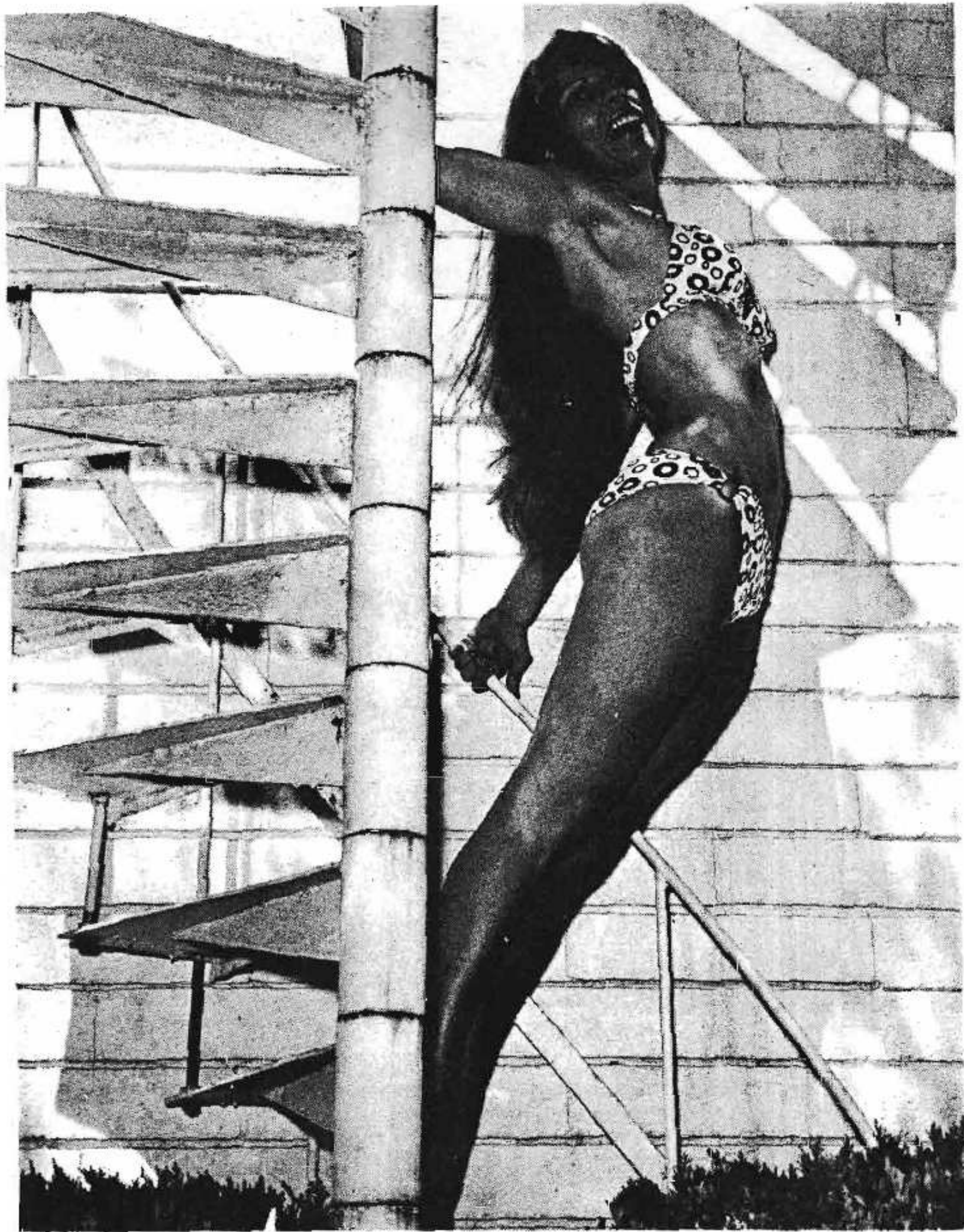
The finest buffet in the world is served on the 24th floor of The Dunes Hotel/Casino. Another reason why the astronauts and their managers chose the Vegas area...



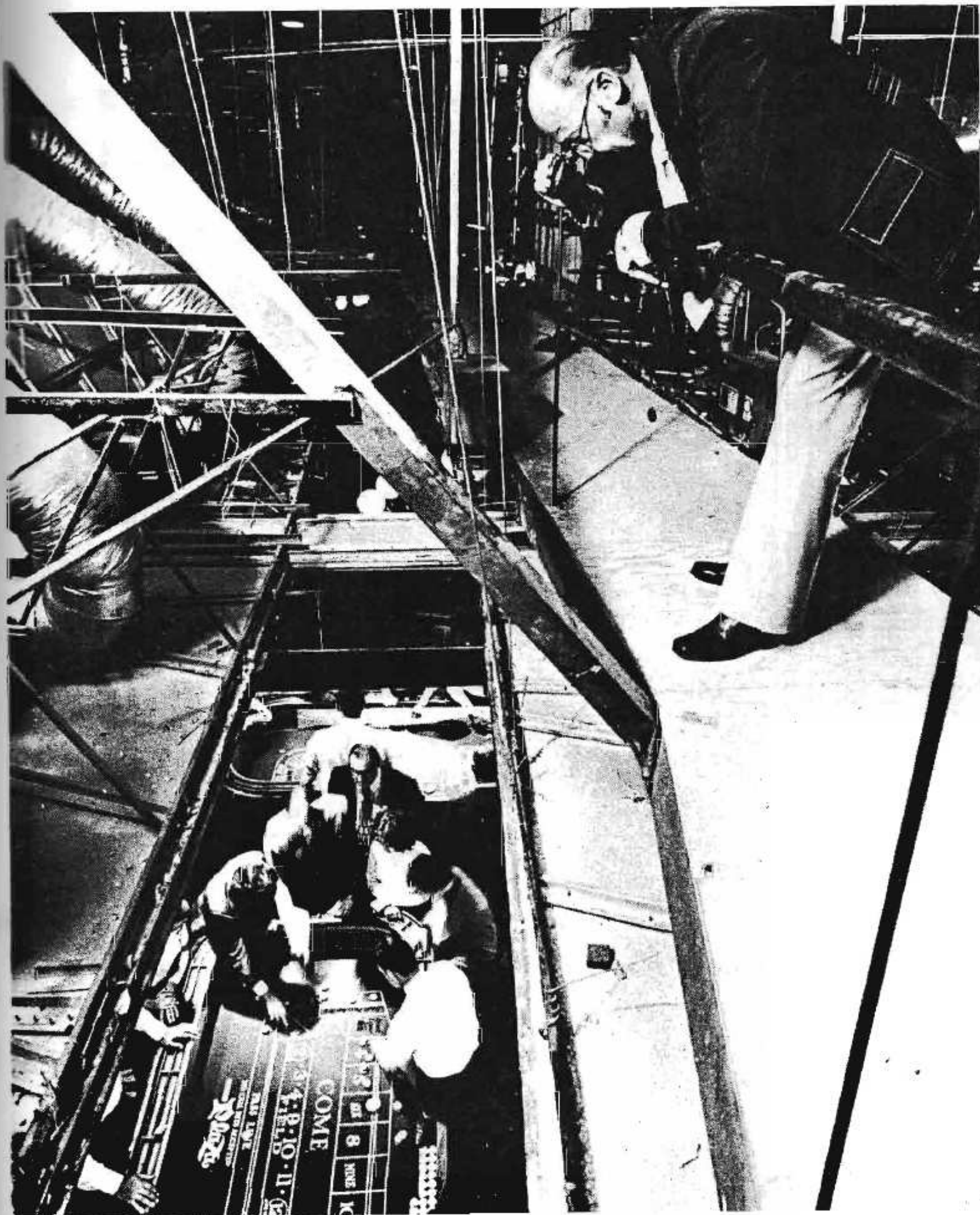
Impressive peaks climb from the desert floor and sand dunes not far from the ASP base. For the astronauts who loved to hike, this region was a paradise.



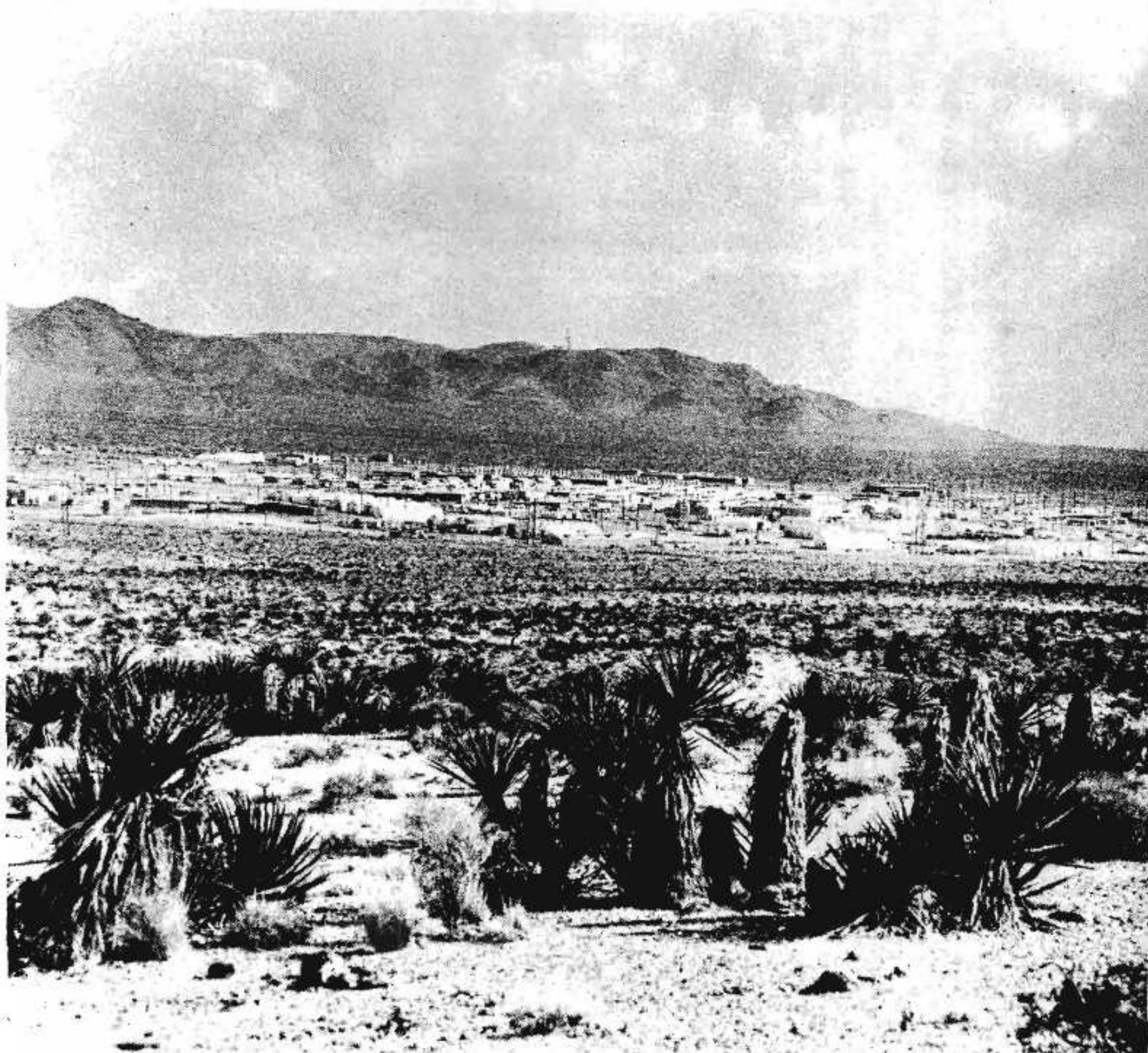
Educational opportunities abound at nearby University of Nevada at Las Vegas. The astronauts were able to add a degree or two while stationed at the Mercury ASP base.



Clerks and secretaries for the ASP control center (MASCOM) were recruited from Las Vegas casinos, which added to the general appeal of the location.



Gambling was another reason why the astronauts felt that Vegas was a place to relax and recuperate from their rigorous moon "trip". Here we see that casinos have their own secrets and methods of



Almost as secret as Los Alamos was during WWII, Mercury, Nevada is virtually unknown to most Americans. What deep secrets does this small city hold? If indeed it was the headquarters for the Apollo simulation, its tightly guarded buildings could speak eloquently.



At right is the text from an AEC booklet on the secret base...

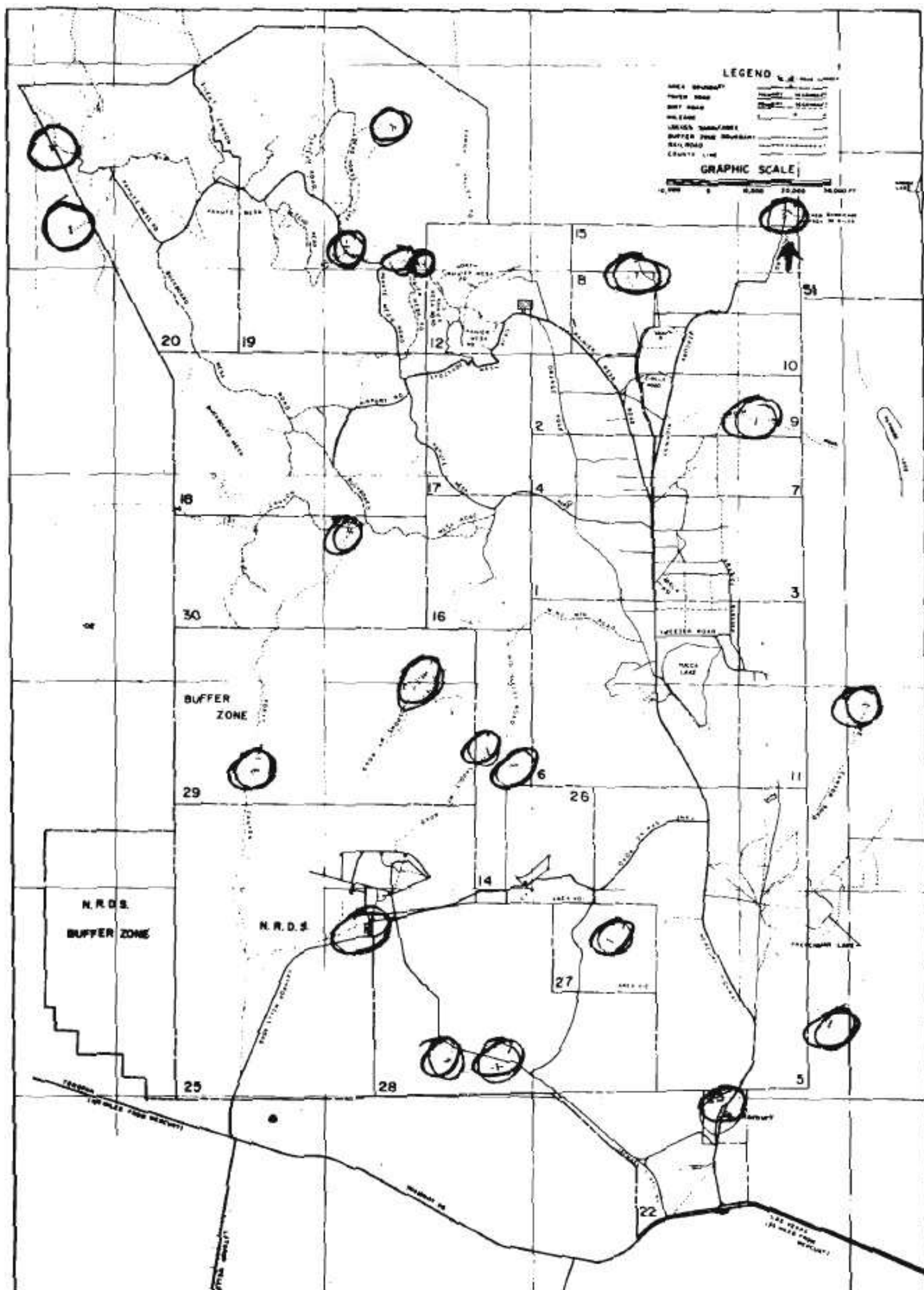
UNDERLINES ARE OURS. Note that the base was increased about the time that the decision was made to simulate the moon trips.

The topography of the Nevada Test Site is typical of the south central Nevada desert — ranges of hills and mountain peaks, and desert valleys with drainage into dry lake beds. The Yucca and Frenchman dry lake beds range from 3,000 to 4,000 feet in elevation and are surrounded by hills and mountain ranges rising to heights of as much as 7,700 feet.

The original site covered approximately 415,000 acres, roughly 640 square miles. Addition of an area to the west in 1956 and the Pahute Mesa and Desert Rock areas in 1964 increased the size to approximately 850,000 acres, roughly 1,350 square miles.

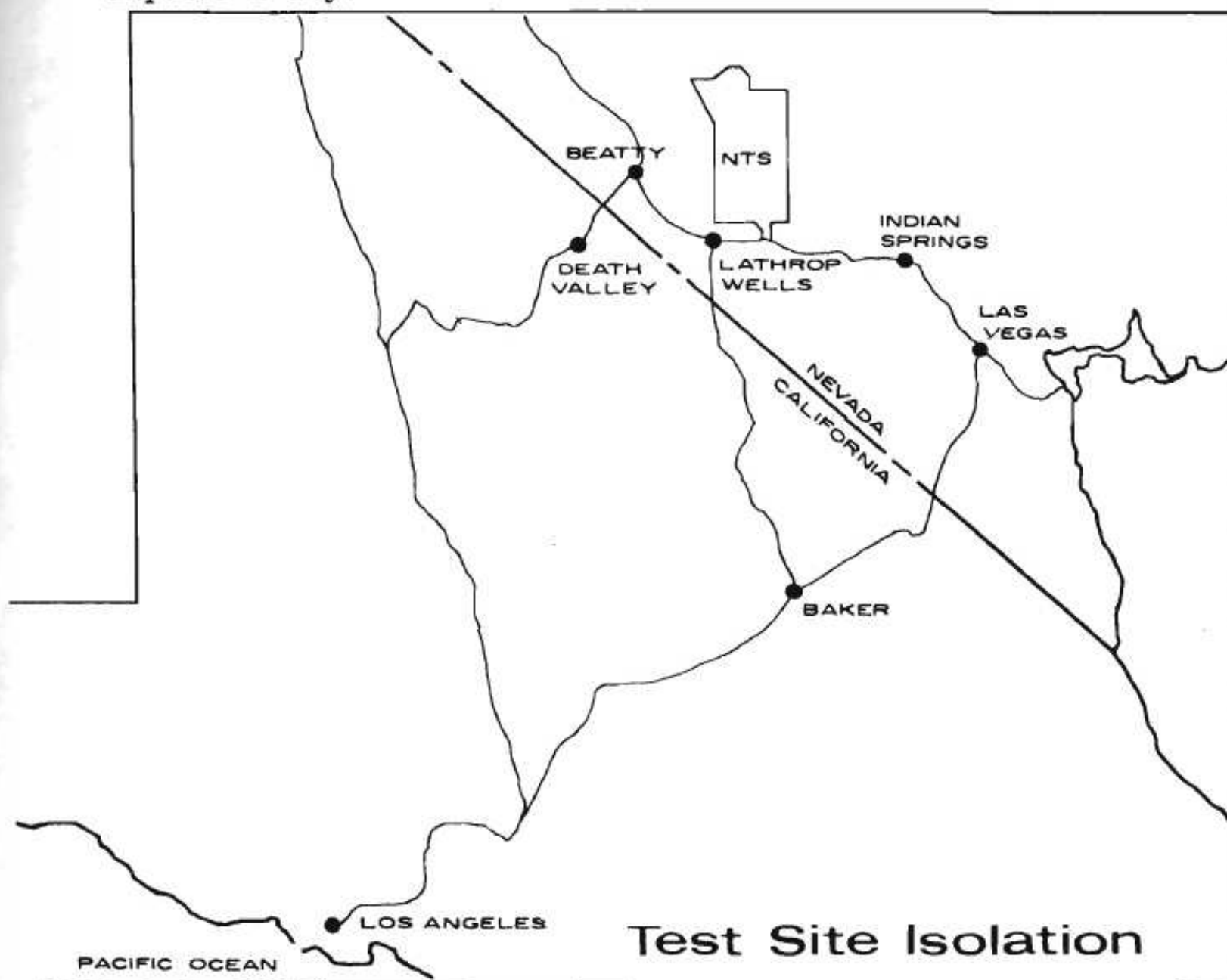
NTS is in Nye County, Nevada, with its southeast corner about 65 miles northwest of Las Vegas.

In this view of one of the many hidden canyons on the NTS/ASP base, it may be seen how effective minimal security measures could be. No one could drive or walk into the facility without detection. A vehicle could be spotted by the dust cloud it would raise; a person walking would comprise the only movement in this lunar-like terrain. Secret tunnels pierce these somber hillsides. Other facilities remain to our conjecture but are no doubt extensive as well as hidden.



Total security; Locked and guarded barricades are circled to show the extent of control over the entire NTS/ASP base of operations.

Note, in this page from the AEC handbook on their Nevada test site, the almost total isolation of the facility. Obviously an important aspect for the ASP operation. Not only was the site far from any habitation, it had an existing reputation as a forbidden region. Everyone was aware that deadly radiation from atomic tests still permeated many areas. Further, constant patrol by AEC guards made entry a virtual impossibility.



Test Site Isolation

The principal geographic feature that makes safe operations possible at the test site is its isolation. From the center of the forward tests areas in Yucca Flat, it is some 40 miles to the nearest off-site permanent residence. Approximate straight line distances to populated areas are: Las Vegas 70 miles, Alamo 50 miles, Caliente 87 miles, Tonopah 85 miles, Goldfield 70 miles, Beatty 40 miles, Lathrop Wells 40 miles, Indian Springs 45 miles, Overton 95 miles, Pioche 100 miles, and Death Valley Junction 57 miles.

The remote Pahute Mesa test area is about 100 miles from Las Vegas and approximately 35 miles from the nearest permanent residence. Tonopah is some 70 miles, Goldfield 60 miles, Beatty 35 miles, Lathrop Wells 40 miles, Indian Springs 60 miles, and Death Valley Junction about 65 miles away.

HOW THE VOYAGE TO THE MOON WAS SIMULATED

"Site Y, as Los Alamos was called, was smaller than the other two secret cities of the Manhattan Project, Oak Ridge and Hanford. But, like them, its name did not appear on any map -- neither was it used as an address."

-- Stephen Groueff, "Manhattan Project, The Untold Story"

Once the decision to simulate all moon voyages was made, NASA and the Defense Intelligence Agency moved swiftly. A code name was created: ASP (Apollo Simulation Project), and the effort was divided into the following tasks:

1. Secret top level organization and management
2. Intensive security, including counter-intelligence
3. Undercover procurement of personnel
4. Clandestine equipment design, manufacture, installation and operation
5. Coverup communications, including wiretaps and taping
6. Covert planning and special projects (Aerospace "plumbers")

A detailed discussion of each of these tasks will best describe how the entire project was successfully conducted.

SECRET TOP LEVEL ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT

"It was not easy (in 1943) to locate the Manhattan District. No such organization was listed in the phone book; no one seemed to know anything about it."

-- Stephen Groueff

Since WWII, it has not been unusual for the United States to create special groups for clandestine political tasks. All are descended from the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), the brainchild of William J. Donovan. He convinced Roosevelt in 1942 that the U.S. needed a special organization to conduct secret intelligence activities, engage in special operations, wage psychological warfare and use any means to undermine the enemy's morale and interests.

One of the most sophisticated activities of OSS was research on subjects of strategic interest. In this effort they drew upon such high-level organization as the Office of Scientific Research and Development headed at one time by Vannevar Bush. Bush was a leading scientist associated with the Manhattan District.

Although the OSS was disbanded after the war, personnel of three of its branches were kept on duty and incorporated into the new Federal intelligence structure. On January 22, 1946, President Truman issued an executive letter establishing the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

Subsequently, the National Security Act of 1947 authorized the President to use the CIA to "perform such services of common concern as the National Security Council determines can be more efficiently accomplished centrally; to perform such other duties affecting the national security as the Council may from time to time direct."

It is not required that one be a constitutional lawyer to recognize the tremendous power these clauses give the President to use the CIA for covert political warfare.

The phrases "services of common concern" and "such other duties affecting the national security" have been interpreted as legal authority for such diverse activities as: the U-2 episode, the Bay of Pigs invasion, the Pueblo, Tonkin Gulf, My Lai and Watergate.

These cancerous outgrowths of the original intent of the National Security Act reveal that the CIA became the American Gestapo as well as a close copy of the dreaded Russian OGPU. As such, they are more than capable of implementing and executing any covert effort. The ultimate implication is that the public is the enemy -- to be manipulated, fooled and defrauded without mercy or conscience.

THE ASP GROUP

In 1961, the overall direction of ASP was coordinated under the aegis of a new federal entity, the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA). As cited by L. B. Kirkpatrick in the book "The U.S. Intelligence Community", the DIA was "conceived as an organization to assist in the coordination of the military contributions of the nation."

Obviously the DIA was expertly contrived to "help" NASA with their technical problems by establishing a totally simulated moon mission. After all, as most aerospace insiders know, the Apollo project was actually a military mission to determine the feasibility of using the moon as a military base of operations against foreign powers. Furthermore, almost 75 per cent of all NASA effort was basically military -- not space!



Author's conception of the ASP control center near Mercury, Nevada. Here, the top DIA simulation controllers directed the entire worldwide operation. Note maps of the then-AEC base on wall and TV monitors of the moon "set".

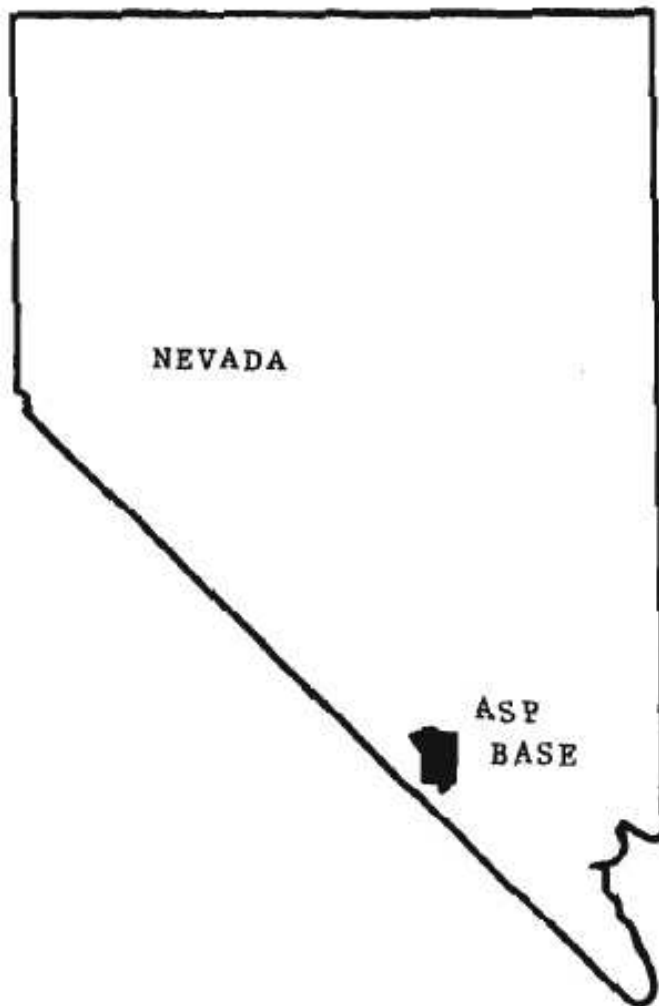
Technical Areas

The NTS technical or experimental areas are contained in two desert basins called Yucca and Frenchman Flats and in Rainier, Buckboard, and Pahute Mesas. Timing and firing equipment for most nuclear detonation experiments is located in the main Control Point (CP-1), a complex of permanent facilities about 20 miles north of Mercury, Nevada. The Control Point is located on the crest of Yucca Pass between Yucca and Frenchman Flats.

Frenchman Flat is the dry lake basin just north of Mercury. The first nuclear test series in Nevada was conducted there. In subsequent years the area was used primarily for civil effects tests and military experiments conducted to determine the effects of nuclear detonations on structures, military materiel, communications facilities, and transportation equipment. Many battered structures built for effects studies still stand in the dry lake bed. In recent years Frenchman Flat has been used only for occasional underground tests.

Yucca Flat, a valley roughly 10 by 20 miles in area extending north from the Control Point, has been the location for most of the nuclear detonations conducted at NTS.

Most underground tests are conducted in Areas 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, and 10 in Yucca Flat, and in Area 12, the location of the tunnel test complex in Rainier Mesa at the northern end of Yucca Flat.



Description of ASP base. Careful research indicates that the most likely areas for an ASP facility were the least used by the AEC. These are underlined.

Areas 15 and 16 have been used for a few underground military effects test experiments in emplacement environments not available on Yucca Flat.

Two additional testing areas, 19 and 20, were developed for higher yield detonations in 1964-65 on the

7,500-foot high Pahute Mesa at the northwestern corner of the Test Site. A Pahute Mesa Control Point and a 5,800-foot air strip were constructed in Area 18, which adjoins the Pahute Mesa addition. This area was used for a number of nuclear tests and chemical high explosive cratering experiments in the late 1950's and early 1960's. The Pahute Mesa Control Point has been dismantled and its functions incorporated in the Main Control Point, CP-1.

Area 1, used for tower tests in the 1950's, now is used for civil effects research and experimental activities.

Support Areas

Various camps and facilities provide NTS support. These include Mercury, Indian Springs Air Force Auxiliary Field, CP-1, Area 12 Camp, temporary camps, and a number of construction support centers.

Mercury (Area 23), headquarters for NTS, and a major support facility, is about five miles north of U.S. Highway 95 which runs from Las Vegas toward Reno. (The Federal Government funded \$9,000,000 of a \$10,000,000 construction program completed in 1965 for making a four-lane divided highway between NTS and Las Vegas.

The State of Nevada funded the other \$1,000,000). Mercury provides office space, overnight living quarters, utilities, mess halls, recreation facilities, a motor pool, laboratory facilities, and administrative offices for test organization personnel. Mercury has separate men's and women's dormitories, but no accommodations for families.

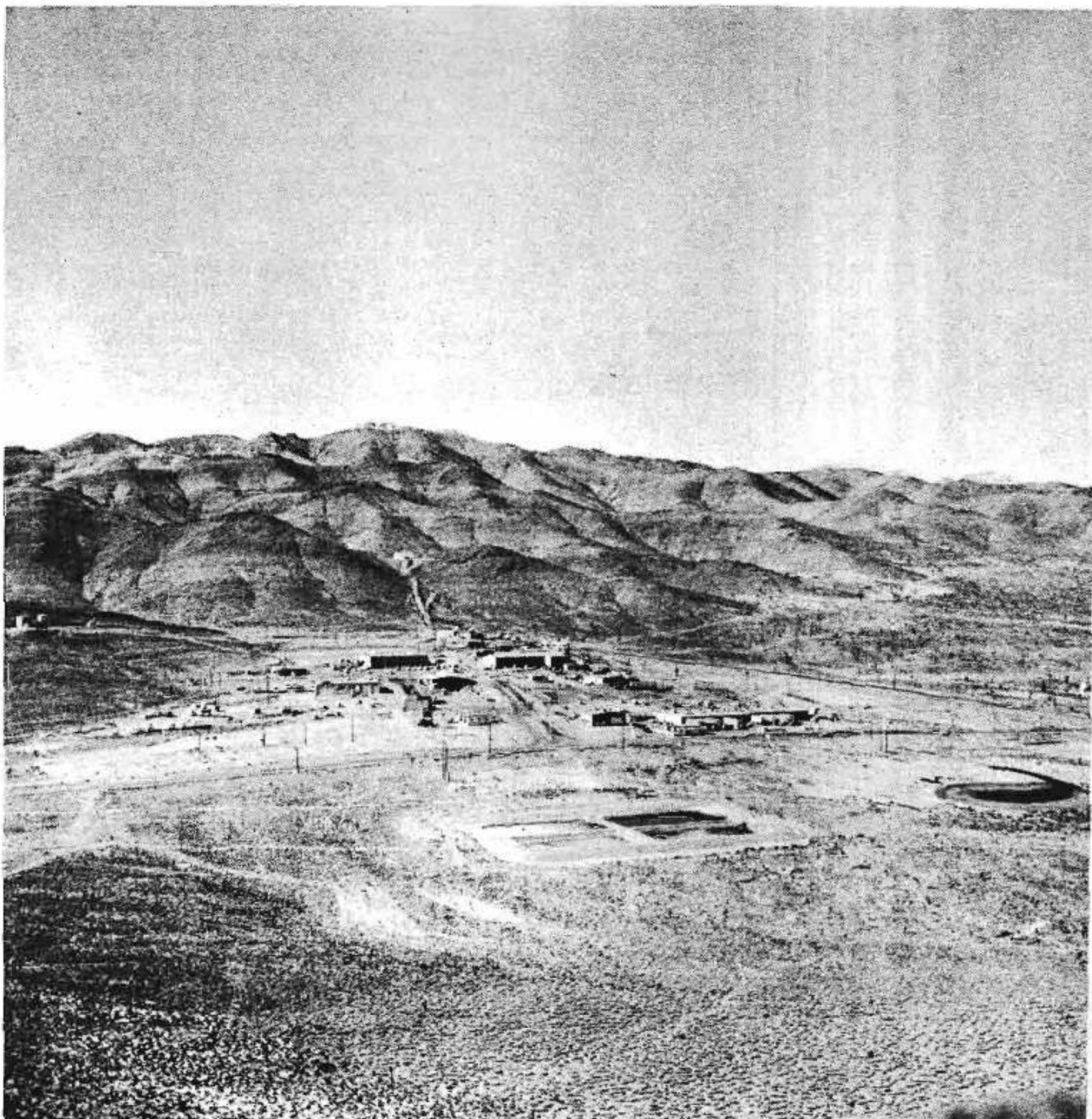
Camp Desert Rock (Area 22) was a U.S. Sixth Army installation used to house troops taking part in military exercises at NTS involving atmospheric nuclear detonations. Its real estate was added to the Test Site in 1964, and its air strip was extended to 7,500 feet to serve NTS.

Indian Springs Air Force Auxiliary Field, a satellite facility of Nellis Air Force Base at Las Vegas, is about 24 miles southeast of Mercury. It is used in part for basing aircraft assigned for NTS operational and technical support.

The Area 12 Camp offers warehousing, overnight housing, and a cafeteria for personnel working in the northern part of NTS.



Although termed Area 6 by the AEC, this could be the headquarters of ASP near Mercury, Nevada. Note especially the air strips on the dry lake beyond facility. Also note banks of micro wave antennae.



Another secret installation probably related to the ASP effort. Isolation has always been the key to such activities whether a concentration camp or a secret rocket base. Who could enter here unseen?

More importantly, note the striking resemblance of the terrain to a lunar landscape!.

When the capability of controlling orbiting H-bombs became a reality, the moon became far less important to the Pentagon's planners. Who needs a moon base when it's possible to destroy any or all of the planet with bombs disguised as communications satellites that orbit the earth 24 hours a day, they reasoned.

However, despite this diminishment of interest, the military was still strongly supportive of any activity that would enhance U.S. prestige worldwide. Thus, the DIA was structured to provide services to NASA, as shown in the chart. How these various departments or divisions functioned is described in the interpretive tabulation.

DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE SCHOOL

Training center for ASP personnel: Washington and Nevada

As may be seen by the interpretation of the DIA chart, this group was not only a managerial body but an action force that instigated, implemented and fulfilled the ASP project. Its budget was enormous but still less than the above ground Apollo effort; estimates range from four to seven billion dollars, as against more than 30 billion for the visible Apollo. Secrecy is expensive but, inversely, large sums often attract attention that can prove damaging to a covert operation.

In general, the ASP program was approached in the same manner as the production of the atomic bomb: total secrecy, total compliance and costs be damned! There was no margin for error. The prestige of the U.S. was at stake. Also, the national and international repercussions that would have resulted from exposure of the fraud would have dwarfed the Bay of Pigs or Watergate affairs.

INTENSIVE SECURITY INCLUDING COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE

"Not more than a half-dozen men were entrusted with complete information concerning the project and its objective, although a total of 800 were involved. Each floor of the building had an armed guard on duty. Burglar alarms were installed on all doors and windows. Everyone had two wastebaskets -- one painted red for classified information. Every evening these were taken downstairs and their contents incinerated in the presence of a security officer. Only American citizens were permitted to work on the project and then only after being cleared by Intelligence Services. Visitors had to fill out a slip and tear off a stub of this slip. By so doing, they left, without suspecting it, their fingerprints on the specially sensitized paper of the stub... The word 'uranium' was never used."

-- From "The Manhattan Project"

Although more than 300,000 persons were directly involved in the building of the atomic bomb (1942-45), no significant information whatsoever reached the public. Thus was established a viable precedent for ASP. The ASP managers could not only point to the Manhattan's success in secrecy, but could use their methods. After all, in an America which has been sliding towards a police state for years (wiretaps, no-knock, civilian surveillance), it was a relatively simple matter to apply these techniques of cloak and dagger to ASP.

Rigidly tight security develops itself a perfect position. Anyone can be excluded by the principle of "need to know". Since NASA has always been 75 per cent military and certainly ASP was in this category, preventing anyone high or low from seeing certain hardware, data or locations, was as easy as dropping a thick curtain. Further, anyone who comprised a threat or knew too much could be taken care of in a number of interesting ways. And all of these measures were justified as being the protection of the national interests.

One of the first security measures undertaken by the ASP Security Staff was the establishment of a base of operations.

PRIVACY WITH RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The chart which compares methods of connection with protection was used to determine the optimum location for the ASP base. Beyond these prosaic considerations was the exciting appeal of a nearby resort city. Thus, it was no accident that the ASP base was located 32 miles east of Mercury, Nevada. The land surrounding the base has long been controlled by the U.S. Air Force and the Atomic Energy Commission -- a double threat to any interlopers.

In this view of the region it may be seen that any trespassers would show up instantly on the screens of the constantly-on TV monitors. Also, control of personnel through the few checkpoints could be accomplished with efficiency and dispatch.

The Mercury ASP base was desirable from a number of security-related standpoints:

1. Strange shipments could be delivered inside trucks marked with the dreaded "radiation" sign.
2. Staff could come and go via the heavily guarded airfield. An elaborate warning-wave-off radio-radar protection system prevented any private planes from using the field except for dire emergencies. Even then, strangers were prevented from actually seeing anything of a compromising nature.

Defense Intelligence Agency Organization

NOTE: The column at left is from the DIA organizational chart itself, while the column at right is our interpretation of their duties with Apollo Simulation Project (ASP).

DIVISION	TASK
Scientific Advisory Committee	Input from NASA's secret ASP staff.
National Photo Interpretation	Create all simulated mission photos, including color views of earth from space.
Imagery	Special effects on earth and simulations on model of moon.
Human Resources	Procurement and management of key simulation personnel including astronauts.
Requirements, Systems Control	Design and manufacture of simulation hardware.
Operations Coordination	Worldwide communications control for entire moon mission transmissions.
Targets	Leak elimination (Apollo 'plumbers')
Imagery Interpretation	Double check on Imagery Division output. (Ensures accurate simulations, both visible and electronic.)
Scientific and Technical Intelligence	Gathers and analyzes NASA simulation data. Makes recommendations.
Mapping, Charting & Geodesy	Responsible for earth and moon sets, plus authentic photos, moon rocks and other fraudulent materials.
Special Projects	Ensures compliance with international agreements. Can be assigned to collect moon rocks from Twin Falls, Idaho.
Communications	Press and public relations as well as all technical and scientific transmissions.
Counter-Intelligence and Security	Responsibility for ensuring that potential open-mouths do not have public voice.

3. Odd noises, weird devices, excavations were permissible since no outsiders had visual or audio access.
4. Coded communications could be made by regular or incredibly high frequency microwave radio.
5. Tensions could be relieved by making the less-than-one-hour trip to Las Vegas, a 24-hour-a-day, seven-days-a-week, anything-goes resort boasting more than 30 large casinos.

Last but far from least, a liason was established with the hidden rulers of Las Vegas, the crime organization chieftans. When needed, services could be exchanged on a mutually beneficial basis, i.e., large sums of money for use of expert "button men". The Cosa Nostra staff presented no problems for ASP Security; they had centuries of practice in remaining silent.

NOTE: U.S.-Mafia criminal cooperation was hardly new. During the invasion of Sicily during WWII, Mafia chieftans aided American troops.

UNDERCOVER PROCUREMENT OF PERSONNEL

Staffing ASP was not as difficult as it might appear to the layman. First, everyone has a price although sometimes the price is one's life. Notwithstanding diehards, recruiting of ASP people went swingingly. People love to know secrets and they also love to have lots of money to spend. ASP provided both.

Salaries of \$50,000 for minor technicians were not uncommon. We have deleted the pay of higher staff personnel out of sympathy for the taxpayer who might be reading this chapter. In addition to salaries, expense accounts for "rest and relaxation" were virtually unlimited. It is interesting to note that during the build-up of ASP facilities near Mercury, income for many of the Las Vegas casinos hit new highs.

Three major categories of ASP personnel existed:

1. Top level management, including DIA and supplemental agency support.
2. Interface personnel, many on "need to know" basis.
3. The astronauts themselves.

Recruiting of the first two categories was done on a money first, patriotism second, basis. It was eminently successful. More discretion was required in obtaining the cooperation of astronauts. For these dedicated and brave men, the following arguments were used:

A. The moon mission was tremendously important to the continuance of the United States as a (or THE) power in political, military, scientific and technical areas.

B. Billions of dollars and several lives had been spent so far; to scratch the mission at this point (1963) would be disastrous to the administration from a public relations standpoint. NASA was in the same position as a Vegas gambler who is in too deep to quit. (NASA's self-interest was also a strong influence: it is a truism that all bureaucracies seek to expand or at least perpetuate themselves.)

C. There would be no danger since the men would not exit the earth's gravitational field.

D. Fame and fortune would be theirs, tarnished only slightly by the fact that the voyage would be illusionary.

E. Intimations that refusal could bring reprisals ranging from demotion to in-flight "accidents". There was no need to remind the candidates of the eight astronauts who had died accidentally during the early phases of Apollo.

NOTE: Thomas R. Baron, an employee of North American Aviation, Apollo's prime contractor, submitted a 500 page report on the inadequacies of the program following the fatal fire on Pad 34. Shortly thereafter, Baron was killed when his car apparently stalled in front of a locomotive.

In addition to these cogent persuasions, the men approached had lifetime histories of obedience. All were or had been in the armed forces and were accustomed to accepting assignments regardless of risk or rather, in spite of risk.

Most pilots are extroverted, game-playing individuals. Thus, it was a relatively simple matter to train the astronauts to play their respective roles in the high drama of ASP. As with most machinery, strains may develop in humans under stress. The recent breakdown of Edwin A. Aldrin, the lunar module pilot, could be an indication of second thoughts.

In summary, ASP recruitment was an unqualified success. That no information has been revealed to this day is not surprising. A CIA-sponsored group known as Air America is noted for its two distinct types of alumni: The silent and the silenced.

CLANDESTINE EQUIPMENT DESIGN, MANUFACTURE
INSTALLATION AND OPERATION: SIMULATION HARDWARE AND
SECRET BASE

Once a base was established and security ineffect, the preparation of simulation equipment could begin.

A complete set of the moon was built in an underground cavern at the ASP base. Every location that would be used for landings was created in exact detail. This elaborate sound stage was code named Copernicus, after one of the lunar craters. It soon earned the name "Cuss" because of problems in lighting and sound.

In addition, scale models of the earth, sun, moon and other bodies were carefully built and mounted within a planetarium-like device so that they could be positioned and photographed with accuracy, repeatability and believability.

The underground sound stage resembled those at a major Hollywood studio complete with overhead catwalks for lighting, camera dolly tracks and other basic filming and TV equipment. In addition, there was a plethora of special effects tools, including high intensity lighting to imitate the harsh glare of sunlight on the airless moonscape.

All scenes of the Lunar Excursion Module (LEM) were filmed on this set with the astronauts as "stars". There were no more problems than would appear during the filming of "Star Trek", "2001, A Space Odyssey", or "Silent Running". After all, Hollywood grips and gaffers, cameramen and directors had acquired long experience in science fiction film production. A plus for the project was the advantage of filming silent. All voices and equipment sounds were dubbed in by an elaborate sound creation and dubbing studio immediately adjacent to the moon set.

SPECIAL NOTE: In the film "Diamonds Are Forever", with Sean Connery playing the role of Agent 007 - James Bond, there is a curious and unexplained scene. He enters a secret research facility in the Nevada desert by ruse. Suddenly he finds himself in a large room in which there is an authentic moon landscape. Lumbering about in their clumsy space suits are two would-be astronauts. Nothing happens, the scene is not explained, and the viewer is left to ponder its significance. Could it be...? Yes, it could!

Also installed at the "Cuss" base was the master control of which the so-called Mission Control and the Spacecraft Center at Houston were merely satellites or slaves. The master control of Cuss (MASCONCULL) collected all data, programmed it into a computer which then coordinated the entire moon landing simulation. Since all releases were by well-edited tape, there was no chance of a blooper. Again, the total control of news by the American corporate state set an effective precedent for the totally controlled output of MASCONCULL. From prelaunch countdown to the final descent to the ocean, all sound and video transmissions emanated from the flawless and mechanistic heart of a specially modified IBM 370-C computer.

SIMULATION PROPULSION HARDWARE

The term "hardware" became a standard term in the aerospace industry for anything that was not stored in a file cabinet or recorded on tape. In short, it meant anything that was manufactured; from an Automatically controlled solenoid to an IDIOT (Intermediate Digital On-Line Transducer).

From the date of the decision to simulate, a modified hardware program was conducted. For example, the Saturn C-5 moon rocket assembly was built to specifications with one major modification: instead of the totally unreliable F-1 engines, five booster engines of the more dependable B-1 type as used in the C-1 cluster for the Atlas missile were used.

Although a cluster of five B-1 engines produced only one-half of the output of a single F-1 chamber, the power (750,000 pounds thrust) was sufficient to launch the virtually empty Apollo vehicle. If the rocket had been in its designed form it would have weighed 6,000,000 pounds, or 3000 tons fully loaded. This is the weight of a U.S. naval destroyer, further pointing out the total impracticality of the venture. However, by eliminating every aspect of the moon voyage - fuel, heavy engines, LEM vehicles, etc., the total weight of the modified, shortrange, simulated voyage Apollo was less than one-twentieth of the original, or about 150 tons. This loading was well within the capabilities of the B-1 propulsion units. Also, since the originally planned two million parts were reduced to a mere 150,000 gadgets, the success of the limited mission was virtually assured.

However, even C-1 Atlas engines were known to explode on the pad or shortly following launch. Thus, the escape module for the astronauts was left intact and functioning. If there had been an accidental loss of thrust or other mishap, it would have been simple to have the "saved" astronauts merge from the escape module after its recovery.

COVERUP COMMUNICATIONS, INCLUDING WIRETAPS AND TAPING

Although the most critical element from the standpoint of press and public relations interface, simulated communications and printed data were technically the simplest to produce.

First, an agreement was obtained by DIA and ASP representatives working with and through the semi-secret Council on Foreign Relations. This agreement being a reciprocal one that would ensure silence on any revelatory Apollo information by major foreign powers.

Russia was the only nation that had the sophisticated tracking radar capable of following Apollo and thus sabotaging the simulation. But Russia was planning extensive commercial exchange with the U.S. and intelligently recognized that they would gain no real advantage by destroying the U.S. myth. After all, their space program had always been ahead of ours and this fact was well-established worldwide.

Actually, there has never been a real problem between or among major nations where control of the masses has been a consideration, i.e., cold and hot wars to keep the masses occupied while they are being fleeced before slaughter. For further information in this area, read "The Rich And The Super-Rich" by Phillip Lundborg.

The presentation of "on-scene" data was divided into these categories:

1. Visual presentations to the public or uncleared personnel.
 - A. Launch
 - B. Re-entry (although out of sight of carrier crews)
2. Radio transmissions during launch, trip to moon, exploration and return.
3. TV transmission from the moon.
4. Still pictures; black and white and color.

VISUAL PRESENTATIONS

Hair-raising for the simulators but most convincing to the public were the launches. After all, if people could drive to the Cape, park and see an immense rocket lift itself off the pad, was this not the ultimate proof that a trip was, indeed, being made to the moon itself? The fact that once out of sight, the vehicle traveled a sub-orbital trajectory to the south polar sea (and jettisoned), did not diminish in any way the blazing glory of the launch to the moon.

The return to the earth by the astronauts in their re-entry module was far less risky than the launch. This was true since it was effected by dropping the module from a C-5A cargo plane. Just prior to this drop, they were picked up at a super-secret, well camouflaged island south of Hawaii.

It is interesting to note that the module was always dropped out of sight of the carrier's crew. Had the simulators desired, it would have been possible to drop the module into the Pacific from a far-ranging nuclear submarine. However, the plan method was chosen since it required a smaller crew "in the know" and ease of security that evolves from a hidden air base (Tauramotu Archipelago.)

RADIO TRANSMISSIONS

Of utmost simplicity, once installed and checked out, was the radio data transmitted "from" the moon vehicle. Secret, leased and well-secured telephone lines were connected to the antennae inputs of all space communications centers. These included the major tracking stations in Australia, Africa and the west coast of the United States.

To accomodate amateur radio operators who might want to tune it, identical broadcasts were made from an orbiting satellite. So perfect were all of these simulations, that the momentary blackout when the module was supposed to be behind the moon was faithfully reproduced.

TELEVISION BROADCASTS

Unquestionable the most interesting and entertaining for all concerned (simulators and fools alike) were the scenes of astronauts gamboling about the lunar set. In addition, these delightful frolics were really elementary exercises for the stage crews. After all, decades of special effects development for the motion picture industry preceded the need for this expertise.

A curious anomaly occurred with respect to this phase of the simulation. The set had to be photographed through filters and electronic "noise" had to be added to avoid a too-perfect picture. Otherwise these scenes would resemble too closely the action from "Star Trek" and other science fiction presentations. Even so, many viewers in bars and country clubs all over the U.S. suspected rather loudly that the scenes were a fake. Little of this reached the newspapers.

Note in this montage of photographs of the astronauts "at work" on the moon that the simulation was simplicity itself. With a totally black space background, a rough but firm moon surface and the LEM featured prominently, the reasonably authentic lunar scene was well within the capabilities of motion picture set designers and special effects experts. The range marks lend an uncanny resemblance to reality - a tribute to the painstaking work of the simulators on an unlimited budget.

These photographs of moon models created early in the Apollo program by NASA show how simple it was to take authentic appearing shots of the moon in space. The simulators had a choice of several expensive earth models for their "blue-green-island-in-space" photos. Again, highly developed Hollywood techniques allowed many types of pictures to lie with great believability. Here are some typical NASA press shots with Hollywood stills placed adjacent for comparison. The reader may make his own judgements.

PLANNING AND SPECIAL PROJECTS

This department was charged with the overall responsibility for planning and direction of the simulation. They also undertook (an appropriate word) to cover up any errors of theirs or any other ASP group.

Using the proven principles of the PERT system (a U.S. Navy method for coordinating many different activities simultaneously), this group generated a flexible but effective plan of action. It included such elements as:

FAVORABLE PUBLICITY RELEASED THROUGH ALL MEDIA

The astronauts and their families as viewed through a bottle of syrup. The success of various flights and tests, heavily colored. Advantages of space flight. Many articles were ghostwritten for such characters as Wernher von Braun and appeared in popularized science magazines. Diagrams of space trips. Photographs of lunar landing vehicles, space suits, food and drink, including a new radiator cleaning agent called Tang. Puffery for such over-fed NASA pontiffs as James E. Webb.

SUMMARY

PASP was a most important arm of ASP. They ensured that fee if any questions would be asked. If questioners persisted, they found themselves deluged with offers they couldn't refuse. The limited number of recalcitrants found it hard to swim with formfitting cement tennis shoes....

NOTE: A complete schedule and chronology of the simulated moon flight is presented in the Appendix. Another example of the work of the PASP Group.

APPENDIX

SCHEDULE AND CHRONOLOGY OF SIMULATED MOON FLIGHTS

ITEM	REMARKS
L-72 hours, pre launch activities	Normal with the exception of substituted flight hardware. Example: B-1 boosters placed within F-1 combustion chambers. Lox RP-1 combo rather than touted LH 2 O ₂ .
L-1 hour, highly publicized and photographed entry of the astronauts into the Apollo vehicle	Analogous to a magician putting his "victim" into the box preparatory to sawing him in half.
L-20 minutes	The three astronauts depart the module via a high speed elevator. They go to heavily secured room in which there is an exact duplicate of the flying module. During this transitional period the TV picture is "lost accidentally."
Launch + one second	Normal in appearance with the five B-1 boosters functioning as F-1's.
L + 23 minutes	Following booster engine cutoff (BECO) a mock J-2 second stage cuts in. This is followed by a third stage mock J-2 which places the Apollo into a parking orbit. Meanwhile, the astronauts are flown to the moon set in Nevada by high altitude jet. Communication switchover to Nevada takes place. Inputs of a phantom Apollo vehicle are now transmitted to the Deep Space Instrumentation Facilities at Goldston, Calif.; Johannesburg, South Africa; and Woomera, Australia.

L + 2 hours

All ASP systems are "GO". The Apollo has been jettisoned into the South Polar Sea. The three astronauts are comfortably seated in their subterranean module mockup surrounded by top ASP directors. Within this fantastic and well-equipped building is ever conceivable luxury, including a few of the shapliest showgirls from Las Vegas, cleared for secret, of course.

Other than an occasional check with Mission Control in Houston, the astronauts are free to wander about and play the slots, sample the 24-hour buffet from the Dunes and watch color TV broadcasts from a private Telstar satellite.

NOTE: It has been alleged that one of the astronauts socked an ASP official in a dispute over a showgirl named Peachy Keen, but this has not been authenticated by our source of information.

L + 72 hours

Activities of the astronauts pick up as lunar holding orbit is approached. Moon set held in readiness for "touch-down". Studio grips and gaffers sprinkle moon dust on moon rocks, adjust lighting from sun arc. Green cheese sandwiches are served. (?)

L + 74 hours

The astronauts assume their respective positions. The lunar orbiting pilot remains behind in the command module while the "landing party" enters the LEM for the trip to the moon's surface.

(SOUNDS OF ENGINES STARTING, METAL CLANKING WITH VOICE OVER):

ARMSTRONG: "Is my antenna out? OK, now we're ready to hook up the LEC here."

ALDRIN: "Now that should go down. . . (static). . . put the bag up this way. That's even. Neil, are you hooked up to it?"

ARMSTRONG: "Yes, OK, now we need to hook this?"

With all TV cameramen in position, the director calls for "lights, camera, action". Protected by a seven second delay in transmission and the watchful eye of the ASP moon walk director, the exciting scenes of the moon landing take place. The commander makes his well-rehearsed remark as he steps carefully from the LEM to the meticulously prepared surface of "moon", just 90 miles north of the bright lights and jangling slot machines of Las Vegas. NOTE: It's not a great performance, but good enough considering the actors and the audience.

The balance of the flight is almost an anti-climax. The return to the LEM, the reunion with the orbiting command module, the routine trip back to earth and touchdown. Simulated re-entry involves a minimum of equipment: simply a command module dropped from a C-5A. The astronauts are flown to a small atoll south of Hawaii; they board the plane, enter the module and are dropped safely just out of sight of the pickup carrier.

LANDING PLUS 21 DAYS

A team of ASP psychologists determines that the astronauts require a transitional period before confronting the press directly. This is necessary to:

1. Eliminate guilt feelings
2. Study and memorize moon data.
3. Practice responding to questions.

In short, orient themselves so that they behave like returning heroes instead of highly paid actors.

On their own but closely watched, the astronauts do their utmost to exude the aura of triumph, the facade of victory. For the majority of viewers, the simulation is a success.

LANDING PLUS 22 DAYS

REPRISE

The schedule is exact but flexible; flexibility lends authenticity. In all, a difficult operation, but far less so than a genuine trip to the moon would have been.

CHAPTER 9

HOW ELECTRIC DATA WAS TRANSMITTED WORLDWIDE

Once the Saturn was out of sight and until the capsule "returned", all evidence of the "flight" was in the form of electromagnetic waves. These, of course, are simple to simulate and transmit. Any or all of the four systems described below could have been employed. Others may have been used but these appear to be the most logical.

LEASED PHONE CONNECTIONS

The basic system was provided by direct wire connections interspersed with microwave transmissions. All were basically Bell System communications on a CIA basis: no monitors, or total "hands off" by the lessors.

At the input were, of course, the synchronized tape decks that provided the complete moon landing simulation. It should be noted that these included the response and "recommendations" of Mission Control at Houston. In other words, these tapes were not just transmissions from the moon — they included all audio and the simulated video from the moon set. Thus, Mission Control at Houston and all other communicators were speaking into essentially dead mikes.

Data sent into oscilloscopes, graphic recorders and TV screens showing data displays, computer recording banks, were all from this one master tape. Again, there could be no error since all events had been meticulously recorded even to the "boo-boos", jokes and seeming improvisations of the astronauts and their counterparts on earth. Experience for this masterful presentation was derived from decades of sound track effort for both motion pictures and TV presentations of science fiction adventures.

LOW FREQUENCY TRANSMITTERS

Unknown to most Americans is the existence of an ultra-low frequency transmission station in a north-western state. This facility is used to broadcast messages to submerged nuclear submarines. The radio waves sent by this station are so long they are lethal to humans if the latter are adjacent to the transmitter. This permits automatic security.

Also, the receivers are of special design and few amateurs would even dream of receiving this type of broadcast. Therefore, ULF was used as a backup to the other methods of transmitting Apollo simulation data of all types.

SATELLITE

The most sophisticated method was microwave satellite to microwave. As a backup, a special satellite contained a tape unit that could be triggered by the ASP control station at Mercury. Thus, there was redundancy to the redundancy.

CHAPTER 10

WERE THE ASTRONAUTS MANCHURIAN CANDIDATES?

"There was a lack of reality about everything, a kind of euphoric strangeness to all was going on."

-- Colonel Aldrin

Following his return to earth, Buzz Aldrin experienced an increasingly severe mental illness. A sampling of quotes from his revealing book, RETURN TO EARTH, provides a basis for analysis.

- P 22 "This kind of tension simmered for the next few weeks but never surfaced."
- P 25 "We were to become public relations men for space exploration -- in a sense, salesmen. The word made me terribly uncomfortable and self-conscious when it was first used."
- P 66 "...and a surprise. The people who lined the streets were exceedingly polite but not at all enthusiastic." (On his reception in Sweden.)
- P 68 "I felt all six of us were fakes and fools for allowing ourselves to be convinced by some strange concept of duty to be sent..."
- P 288 "My intellect was not separated by the jagged and dangerous wall of my emotions. The rule of my emotions was absolute and ruthless. I yearned for a brightly lit oblivion -- wept for it."
- P 295 "Should anyone discover I was in the hospital (for nervous problems) the explanation was to be that I was being treated for a neck problem. The other problem, if at all possible, was to be kept secret."
- P 304 The last two years of my life, from the time I left the lunar quarantine quarters until I entered Wilford Hall (the mental hospital) were characterized by depression, which occasionally deepened, then rose to a temporary brief high of optimism, only to sink again to a new low."
- P 317 "My life is unreal..."
- P 320 "I was incredulous...she had really believed all that crap she had read about me - about her - about all of us? Suddenly, all my life...became tinged with a crazy unreality."
- P 388 "When I began this book I had two intentions. I wanted it to be as honest as possible."
- (Why not just plain honest?)

In June of 1971, Aldrin rejoined the Air Force and was assigned to the Edwards Air Force Base in California, a windy, high desert locale. He had been on medication for his nervous disorder: one Kitalin pill per day. In his own words...

"I looked great. There was only one problem. I believed my confidence to be rooted in reality."

"Early in June an event was scheduled that we regarded as a new beginning for us and as such, we looked forward to it a great deal. I wanted to be at my very best."

"The occasion was a big meeting of the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce. They had invited members of the Society of Test Pilots; I was one of the guest speakers."

"What intrigued me most was that I would not be giving a speech. Instead, Roy Neal, the NBC newscaster, would interview me in a most informal way."

"The afternoon of the banquet, I stopped by Roy's motel and asked if he wanted to run over any questions with me. He assured me they would be very easy to answer and that no preparation at all was necessary."

"As banquets go, this was a large one. The base commander, General and Mrs. White attended."

"I began to be more and more apprehensive as the time for my interview grew near."

"The first question that Roy Neal asked me was, 'Now that almost two years have gone by, why not tell us how it really felt to be on the moon?'"

"If any one question was anathema to me, that was it. Roy, I suppose, felt he had no choice. Yet it has always been almost impossible for me to answer that question with any sort of decent response."

"My throat went dry and I became dizzy. Carefully I picked my way through a reply, thinking that all the test pilots in the audience would burst out in laughter."

"I remember little more of the interview. When it was over I stepped down and stood before about 50 Chamber of Commerce members and their wives all waiting for autographs. I signed a few and when the shaking became uncontrollable, I grabbed Joan and ran for the door.

"In the privacy of an alley near the auditorium, I choked back my emotions and quietly wept. Joan stood silently by and when I composed myself, she took me to the nearest bar. I was inconsolable...I was judging myself too harshly ... I got rather drunk."

COMMENTARY

In Hamlet, the hero plans to trap the supposed murderer of his father by staging a play. He says, "The play's the thing wherein I'll catch the conscience of the king." Later, he says, "If he but blench, I'll know my course."

I once discussed the Aldrin incident and its parallel to Shakespeare's play with a specialist in human communication. He said that probably Aldrin's hypnotic state (imposed as a part of the moon trip simulation) was finally terminated by that one critical question asked at a crucial time. ("If he but blench...") Knowing that he had to lie (and a West Point graduate almost never lies) caused the extreme stress which triggered the severe nervous collapse.

CHAPTER 11

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE APOLLO PROJECT HOAX

"Gadgets, entertainment, sex and even some harmless dissent and radical culture are all means the State can employ to keep a real rebellion from ever getting started."

— Charles Reich, "The Greening of America"

APOLLO AS A 20TH CENTURY PYRAMID

Was the Apollo project, real or otherwise, simply a gadget? Was it really one of the means that the controllers use to retain their control? I think the answer to that is yes. However, it was more than just a 30 billion dollar astrophysical toy; it was a replacement for a shooting war.

As Shakespeare so wisely said, "Sweet are the uses of adversity." Although the Apollo project was adverse in the sense that it did little more than give employment to many people and advance certain sectors of science, it did allow the present warfare state to maintain the economy without killing a lot of people. In that respect, the Apollo was a "good" project. But viewed from the present day of \$1 per loaf of bread and 50 cents a pound of sugar, it was really only a stopgap measure; one designed to maintain control for a few more years while the controller's worked on more lasting schemes.

Apollo was a part of the economic disease that now threatens to create monetary havoc not only in the U.S., but worldwide. In that sense, it was genuinely adverse, but only for a limited time.

It has been obvious to many that the American standard of living could not continue forever in the midst of abysmal poverty in many other parts of the world. Even though we have been able to live affluently in a wartime of quasi-wartime economy since about 1939, it was inevitable that one day we would no longer be able to borrow to support an unreal and profligate way of life.

Ultimately, the pyramid-building phase (throwing money into unproductive projects) had to come to an end. Our present inflation is probably only a sample of horrendous inflation to come.

APOLLO AS A DISASTER FOR THE CORPORATE STATE

All that is happening, as this book is written, was predicted in a remarkable volume by Charles Reich, we find the following perceptive prediction. (This was written prior to 1970, which makes it even more prescient.)

"The state itself is now bringing about its own destruction. The machine itself has begun to do the work of revolution. The State is now generating forces that will accomplish what no revolutionaries could accomplish by themselves. And there is nothing the State can do by repression or power to prevent these forces from bringing it down."

In light of recent events, political, economic and social, it seems that these words are terribly prophetic. It is a fact that Apollo, a 30 billion dollar boondoggle whether it was successful or not, contributed to the downfall. Had this money been spent elsewhere, the decline and fall of the U.S. would have taken somewhat longer. But the forces of which Reich speaks, transcends a mere moon trip. As he points out...

consciousness. It could indulge in any irrationality (Apollo, for example?) so long as that false consciousness was preserved. What has now happened is that the State has finally begun to do things which pierce the illusions and myths of the majority of people."

For example, Reich goes on to point out that . . .

"... to have consumers for its constantly increasing flow of products, the Corporate State must have individuals who live for hedonistic pleasures, constant change and expanding freedom. To have workers for its system of production, the State must have individuals who are ever more self-denying, self-disciplined and narrowly confined.

Once a man has been sold on skiing, boating, foreign travel and gourmet cooking, he can no longer believe in his work. There is a great subversive force loose in America, manufactured with all the famous efficiency of the Corporate State."

Although different in nature to the dichotomy between work and pleasure, the Apollo project, real or not, contributed to the dissolution of the myth for the following reasons:

1. It "blew" money in large quantities for a space spectacular.
2. It thus had to be sold by large doses of publicity and public relations.
3. While people needed fresh air, pure water, safer cars and more rewarding jobs, a trio of men supposedly made the quarter million mile journey between earth and its satellite. Now whether this journey was made or not, a great many people witness the failure of their leaders to provide for the basic needs of the people.

Just as in the days preceding the fall of Rome, the government believed that "bread and circuses" would keep the people pacified. Long before the last Apollo "trip" most of us were totally bored by the almost identical repetition. It was analogous to watching the father of a poor family take trips in his mortgaged Rolls Royce while the children go barefoot and hungry.

Thus, the Apollo was actually a disaster that hastened the present conditions, again, whether the trip was actually made or not. It must be evident by now that the impact of a pseudo event is just as real as the impact of a real event. Therefore, whether our contention is right or wrong, the Apollo project was a hoax on not only the American people, but ultimately on the people who conceived of it and carried it out!

APOLLO SIMULATION AS A PRESTIGE PRESERVER (ASTROPOLITICS)

Since the end of WWII, when the U.S. was dominant in the world power race, it has sought to maintain that position. To be truly first, one must be first in everything: standard of living, health, number of cars and TV sets, science and technology, packages of Trix consumed per day by hapless 9-year-olds . . .

Thus, when Kennedy made this fateful commitment for the U.S., i.e., we'll place a man on the moon before the decade is out -- he unwittingly trowed down a foundation of sand for NASA and its greedy proselytes.

An analogy is appropriate: a small boy struts about the neighborhood and proclaims that his father can lick anyone on the block. Unfortunately, he does not bother to tell the father, have him train or check out the opposition. When showdown day arrives, the father has some choices:

1. He can be whipped in front of his boy and the neighborhood residents.
2. He can move away.
3. He can somehow divert attention from the unwise commitment.

Relating this to the predicament of the U.S. after 1961, we find that:

1. Obviously no one in government wanted to be whipped even though there was no indication at any time that there was a real "race to the moon."
2. There was no place for the U.S. to go.
3. By doing what was possible and faking the rest, the U.S. could save face.

And this, of course, is our contention. Even though the budget for Apollo was high and probably even higher than anyone admits, it was a cheap hype to further befuddle the world's masses as to the alleged eminence of the U.S. in all fields.

A POLLO SIMULATION TO JUSTIFY GREAT EXPENSE

When people make a junket to Las Vegas and spend (or lose) a lot of money, they don't really mind it if they enjoy themselves and really believe that it was worth it.

But if they feel cheated, they are obviously going to consider another trip very carefully. The success of Las Vegas as an entertainment center for the world is based on giving the customer something for his money: the thrill of gambling, even winning for a short time; seeing world-famous performers in person (something to tell the folks back home); eating excellent food at prices often below cost and generally experiencing aspects of life that are definitely not found in Grand Rapids or Downey.

When the commitment was made to go to the moon, the public was reasonably convinced that the venture was scientifically and monetarily worthwhile. In other words, if men landed on the moon, the public would consider the money well spent.

However, if there were any more cremations on the ground, more engines that didn't start when they should, more near drownings (a la Grissom), there would be hell to pay. This hell would not include NASA, but all the politicians who perform handmaiden tasks for NASA and related agencies. Thus, there was no chance for error . . . the mission was far too risky to undertake in reality . . . it simply had to be simulated to justify the enormous costs involved.

Furthermore, the simulation, while much less chancy, had to be perfect. But as we've seen, this presented far fewer problems since lots of money buys lots of silence. On the other hand, ten billion dollars wouldn't buy the opening or closing of a single critical control valve if the LEM actually did descend to the moon's surface.

So, in summary, the simulation had to be successful, but this was ensured by an unlimited budget. Exactly what this amount was in addition to the parallel effort on the Apollo itself will probably never be known. It will go unmarked as are all clandestine projects of our secret government.

THE APOLLO SIMULATION AS A MILITARY PROJECT

"The statement must be made unequivocally that it has been the Department of Defense, not NASA that has called the shots in America's space program. This is true despite the fact that NASA's astronauts have dominated the public's image of space projects. Not only is NASA's "open" program defense oriented, but there has always been, concealed from public view, a vigorous Defense Department space program."

This startling statement by the authors of "Mission To The Moon" precedes a long and detailed description of how DOD has hoaxed the public into thinking that space projects were peace projects. A pair of examples will illustrate, but for more information we recommend the book itself.

In 1965, the Air Force decided to use a modified Gemini spacecraft as the space shuttle to its permanent manned orbiting laboratory. The crew of the latter would use a host of sensors to catalog targets on the earth below. Thus, not only was a "peaceful" space project perverted to military use, the MOL itself was usurped for aggressive purposes. Had this been done without the lies, it would have been accepted as merely another bellicose posture by the military. But to disguise it as a NASA activity is simply another example of the perpetual swindle by military leaders.

On May 17, 1968, there was an attempted launching of a NASA weather satellite from Nadenburg AFB in California by an Agena rocket. Someone accidentally installed the yaw rate gyro 90 degrees out of position and the launchers had to blow up the rocket 45 miles from the pad. As the debris rained down on California, NASA was distributing a news release explaining the launch was for the purpose of acquiring meteorological data.

However, they also mentioned that the Agena carried a DOD payload, a U.S. Army SECOR satellite used for obtaining ballistic missile range data. Again, what the military does is what the military does, but why pretend that NASA is all peace and no war when that is obviously not true?

But beyond these considerations is the fact that the military was heavily involved in Apollo — so much so that the simulation was necessary to maintain its macho image worldwide. As described in a previous chapter, the military provided much of the "muscle" to ensure the security of the complex hoax.

THE APOLLO PROJECT AS EXTRA-GALACTIC THEATER

In a curious and haunting science fiction novel, the "Wine Of The Dreamers" (sometimes known as the "Planet Of The Dreamers"), the hypothesis is presented that we earthlings are merely the playthings of superior beings who dwell on a planet in a far distant galaxy or island universe.

Since there is evidence that thought transmissions are instantaneous, it is possible that the author's conjecture is correct. In any event, the mechanism is as follows: A "dreamer" is placed in a sealed, transparent tube. All of his bodily functions are accommodated automatically. His brain is connected by an elaborate "patch board" or wiring system to a transmitter - receiver. The dreamer is able to select a particular planet and beyond that, a particular person on the planet that he wishes to control.

The earthling is often unaware that he is being controlled and thus cannot understand his actions at times. The dreamer simply lives within the controlled subject's mind, entertaining himself with any activities that he chooses.

Perhaps Vonnegut is more prescient than he knows, when he says, "Strange travel directions are dancing lessons from God." It is interesting that the author's theory coincides perfectly with the existing concept of possession by spirits, evil or otherwise. Also, the theory would explain the often unexplained actions of people who go berserk or otherwise "freak out". It would also explain the oftenheard remark by writers and other creative people, that they receive most of their inspiration from a "muse" or other unworldly source.

Thus, it is possible that the entire Apollo project, including the simulation, was simply a piece of theater planned and executed by dreamers. This would explain the fantasy - reality aspects where events seem to slip back and forth between two or more planes of space - time. It also explains why men like Werner Von Braun have an overwhelming desire to "go to the moon" despite the technical limitations imposed by schedules and shortcomings in the state of the art of rocketry.

It becomes easy to explain Von Braun's obsession if we think of him as a man possessed by a dreamer who wants to see an earth-to-moon voyage despite the inability of earthbound engineers to produce the necessary hardware. And since we couldn't make it successfully, the dreamer simply had other men do the best that could be done under the circumstances . . . simulate it.

While this is a far out theory, it should not be discounted. There are those who believe that there is no atomic bomb, that Howard Hughes has been dead (and in a cryogenic tube) for ten years, and that, as Shakespeare said:

"Our revels now are ended. These our actors,
As I foretold you, were all spirits, and
Are melted into air, into thin air;
And like the baseless fabric of this vision,
The cloud-capped towers, the gorgeous palaces,
The solemn temples, the great globe itself,
Yea, all which it inherits, shall dissolve;
And like this insubstantial pageant faded,
Leave not a rack behind. We are such stuff
As dreams are made on
And our little life
Is rounded with a sleep."

"The Tempest"

SUMMARY

When viewed from many standpoints, as a "pyramid", as astropolitics, as a justification for great expenditures, and finally, as a military venture, the Apollo project looms as a most formidable entity. It is understandable why ASP was a high priority project, and why, to this day, there is virtually nothing available to dispute the hoax. Nothing, that is, until this book was written.

The Apollo story is not yet finished. It is hoped that this preliminary speculation will engender other research efforts not only to uncover concealments but to ultimately turn over every stone and let the bright light of investigation reveal what is truth and what is not.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

This book has examined the possibility that the Apollo project was actually a gigantic hoax.

We've read the description of the moon trip as presented by NASA. There has been a close look at the reasons for spending 30 billion dollars on a project that even President Kennedy felt was less important than desalinization. Details comparing political goals with scientific and technical realities have been scrutinized. We've postulated the factors involved in making the final decision to simulate the space voyage.

Then, the chapter on how the moon trip was simulated, was presented as a documentary fantasy, a best guess on how this hidden action was conducted. This part was similar to the book and film, "Executive Action", which speculated on how Kennedy was really murdered.

The book concludes with a review of the Apollo project from a number of standpoints. There's also a chapter in which we counsel on how to avoid being hoaxed again. References and such complete the work.

The conclusion is this:

THE TRIP TO THE MOON WAS A HOAX

But more importantly, it is not the only hoax perpetrated by those in power for their own personal gain. There are many hoaxes, large and small. Perhaps a story from my own experiences will demonstrate this latter statement.

In 1960, a friend of mine named Bob Varney sent me a postcard from Nevada. It showed a short part of the Humboldt River between Elko and Battle Mountain. First of all, I didn't know that this river existed. Secondly, it was beyond the range of my annual two week vacation. Thus, there was a strong possibility that I would never see it in my lifetime.

This started me thinking -- I should really spend my life (all but two weeks a year) sitting behind a desk shuffling papers? I began to feel that my family and I were being swindled; that living a life style arranged by others was actually a very serious hoax.

The more I thought about trading 50 weeks a year of servitude for two weeks of freedom, the more I thought that I was being cheated of life itself!

Friends counseled that I should wait for retirement. But I had seen those longing looks by oldsters who watch young people swimming in chilly rivers. I wanted to enjoy rivers and lakes and mountains while I was young enough to enjoy them . . . and share them with my family, too.

So I quit. Just like that. Sold my house, stored my furniture, bought a travel trailer. Then the four of us made a grand tour of the American West that continues to this day for me. I've seen places and sights denied to most of the U.S. population.

Have you been to Wagonfire, Oregon? (We've been there twice.) Have you seen the Ruby Mountains, the Alps of America, in northeast Nevada? Or the great Fraser River of British Columbia. Or some of the tranquil bays of Baja?

Or have you stopped by a hot spring knowing that you could stay a day, a week, or indefinitely? Or cooked a dinner of fresh-caught fish over a crackling campfire without the thought of returning soon to some dismal office? Or cruised the California Delta in your own boat taking notes for a book on living the free life afloat?

If you haven't, get cracking! There's still time to shake off the hoax that we must all work for 45 years to enjoy two years of retirement. (The average American male retires at 65, dies at 67.)

Incidentally, at the end of this section is a list of books that will help you get out of the rat race.

So this is the real point, the intended conclusion of this book:

Question everything and everyone. Ask yourself: "Who profits?" If your life is not what you think it should be, change it.

As Satchidananda says, "Give up a drop and gain the whole ocean." Take command, free yourself from convention, from the false guidance of accepted platitudes. Break free! Stop living a lie, a hoax; stop being swindled of the most precious thing you have . . . your time on earth. As Henry James said, "Live all you can; it's a mistake not to. It doesn't matter what you do in particular, so long as you have had your life. If you haven't had that, what have you had? The right time is any time that one is still so lucky as to have . . . LIVE!"

What has happened since I wrote the original book in 1974? Here's a partial documentation. Actually, so many incidents have occurred, it would take another book to present them. But these are some of the highlights.

Incidentally, I would appreciate it if readers of this book would send me any bits of evidence, theories, ideas -- in short, anything that has to do with the moon doggie. We will incorporate reader contribution in the update of *We Never Went To The Moon*.

Thank you.

BK

REVIEW

I submitted the manuscript of *We Never Went To The Moon* in December of 1974. It was rejected (by Price, Stern and Sloan, publishers in Los Angeles) with a letter which "disavowed" the book, whatever that means. Having other fish to fry, I simply shelved the ms and went on to other books.

In November of 1975, I casually mentioned the book to the people at Zodiac News Service in San Francisco. They released a short paragraph in their next issue. Within a few days, radio stations nationwide began calling for interviews. I did a total of 52 live and taped shows, including one on "Tomorrow" with Tom Snyder in New York. The mail response, according to the producer was "heavy". The story was also carried by the L.A. Free Press, the San Jose Mercury and several small papers.

THE NASA ENGINEER

I received a call from Dave Huntsman, an engineer with the NASA Houston Space Center. He wanted to buy a complete copy of my manuscript and said that he would fly out to get it. I copied Chapter 11, which is the most relevant and discussed the book. He said that he did not want to work for a phony organization, and that if he determined that I was right, he would quit. He also said that he worked closely with two astronauts. He gave me a P.O. Box to which I could write if I developed more data or interest. Dave seemed rather nervous during the visit and my wife's opinion is that he was an FBI or CIA agent. Dave was accompanied by his "mother", a Madelon Huntsman of San Jose.

THE HOOKER OF CACTUS SPRINGS

Following an interview in the Pacific Northwest, I received a call from a Margaret Hardin of Portland, Oregon. She said that she had met a hooker in Reno in 1970 who admitted to her that two NASA engineers told her the moon trips were a hoax. At the time the hooker was employed at Cactus Springs, Nevada, which is the closest cat house adjacent to Mercury, Nevada. (In my book, I allege that Mercury and the surrounding AEC-AF base was the headquarters for the moon trip simulations.)

I called a friend in Las Vegas, J. * R, who checked the hooker's credentials and gave me her current address and phone. I called her and used her real name, M. A, instead of her hooker name, M. B. She was very curious as to how I found her, and I explained. After the second call, she agreed to meet me in Sparks, her present home, and tell me the entire story.

I drove to Sparks, met her in the lounge of the Nugget, and was shocked to hear her say, "I don't know what you're talking about . . . I know nothing about the engineers of the moon trip hoax."

After she left, two police questioned me, claiming that I had threatened M. I was able to talk my way out of that one. This event took place in February, 1976.

THE KOME TRANSMITTER

On December 7, 1975, I was invited to speak on a three-hour show originating at radio station KOME in San Jose. The MC was Victor Boc. About half-way through the show, at about 10:30 a.m., the transmitter went off the air. Vic tried to actuate the auxiliary, but it was also defunct. Investigation by police and FCC personnel revealed that the installation on a hill near Gilroy, California was burned by someone using a helicopter. I later appeared on the show while the transmitter was guarded by armed guards.

KOME personnel are now playing games. They claim that only a "relay" went out. However, Victor Boc has dropped out of sight.

What is the story here? Readers are welcome to explore this interesting story on their own. Keep us posted!

*Names deleted for protection of the innocent.

THE AIRLINE PILOT

While appearing on a talk show, an airline pilot phoned in and said that he had observed an Apollo capsule being ejected from a large plane at about the time the astronauts were due "back" from the moon. Seven Japanese passengers also observed the incident. The pilot did not give his name for fear of losing his job.

This correlates with my contention that the astronauts never left the earth and were "returned" by plane or ship in an appropriately heat-streaked capsule.

THE MAN FROM ARMY INTELLIGENCE

While doing a live show in Phoenix, Arizona by phone (KRIZ with Burt Goodman) ...
said "I've been ..."